

# **JOHNSON STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT**

## **High Point, North Carolina**

**Its History and Architecture**  
By Thomas W. Hanchett

**Inventory of Structures**  
Compiled by  
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and members of the Johnson/Hamilton Homeowners Association

Prepared for the

**City of High Point**  
Mayor Judith P. Mendenhall, City Manager Lewis Price

**City of High Point Historic District Commission**  
Chairman E.A. Peyton, Jr., Vice Chairman Susie Bland

and the  
**City of High Point Department of Planning and Development**

1987

## Introduction

Today Johnson Street is a handsome avenue lined with comfortable Bungalow, Rectilinear and Colonial style houses. To the first-time visitor Johnson Street looks much like many other early residential streets in High Point, North Carolina. The trees on Johnson Street are a bit nicer, perhaps, and the close-spaced front porches seem especially inviting. In fact, Johnson Street has a very special place in High Point's history. The street is the best-preserved part of the city's first suburban subdivision, built far out in the country in 1907. Johnson Street began the northward trend of residential development that marked High Point's growth for decades, and the street's residents included many of High Point's key business and civic leaders in the early twentieth century.

In October 1986 the High Point City Council designated Johnson Street as High Point's first official Historic District. In support of that designation, members of the Johnson/Hamilton Homeowners Association and staff from the High Point Department of Planning and Development began gathering information on the neighborhood's history and architectural development. Deed records were traced for every house, long-time residents were asked to write letters sharing their memories, books on High Point history were combed, and more.

This document is the result of that work. It is composed of two sections, "Johnson Street: Its History and Architecture," and an "Inventory of Structures." The first section begins with an historical essay that sets Johnson Street in the context of High Point's economic development, then focuses on the men, women and children who lived on the street in its early years. Next is an architectural essay which investigates the building styles and landscape elements that characterize the neighborhood. The second section of the report is a structure-by-structure inventory of the district, with detailed information on the history and architecture of each house.

In keeping with standard historic practice, houses in the district are named according to their first resident owner. In a few cases where a later owner resided in the house for an extensive period, the house will have a hyphenated name. Construction dates are generally accurate plus or minus one year. Dates preceded by the word "circa" are accurate plus or minus two years. The period illustrations in this report, except where noted, are from the High Point "booster books" published by newspaper editor J.J. Farriss in the late 1900s and early 1910s.

Research of this sort is always a matter of detective work, piecing together thousands of bits of data to create a picture of the past. Sarah Wilson Jones tirelessly led the gathering of those data, with the able assistance of Margaret Clinard Folger, Margaret Hedrick Oldham, Susannah Jackson Hedrick, Robert P. Cook, Barbara Navratil, Josef Walker, Glenn Morris, Ernie Flemming and Kevin Mack, among others. Charles Navratil and James T. Snow of the

Johnson/Hamilton Homeowners Association, Dennis Lawson of the High Point Museum, Mary Elizabeth Clark Joyce of the High Point Historical Society, and Randolph County historian Mac Whatley contributed their expertise. Cathy Cooper-Ruska coordinated research efforts through the Department of Planning and Development. On behalf of the Historic District Commission, the author wishes to thank all of them, as well as the dozens of present and former Johnson Street residents who shared their recollections of the neighborhood's early years.

To help ensure the accuracy of the final picture, many of the research contributors as well as several other High Point citizens have graciously read portions of the draft of the manuscript. Thanks to Frances Gordon Lindsay Austin, Gladys Blair, Altah Norwood Caffey, Aubrey and Elizabeth Dunbar, Mabel Hargett Harrington, Helen and John Herndon, Sheldon Lemay, Evelyn Barnhart Mitchell, Katherine Peyton, Sarah Taylor Phillips, Martha Taylor Turner, and the members of the Historic District Commission. The author owes special gratitude to Carol Sawyer, who may have heard more about High Point history than she ever thought she wanted to know, and still became his wife somewhere in the midst of the project. Whatever imperfections remain in this document are the responsibility of the author.

The format of this report corresponds with the North Carolina Department of Archives and History's guidelines for local historic district documentation. The report could also be used to prepare the nomination of the Johnson Street Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places, if so desired. I believe that Johnson Street is clearly eligible for inclusion on the National Register.

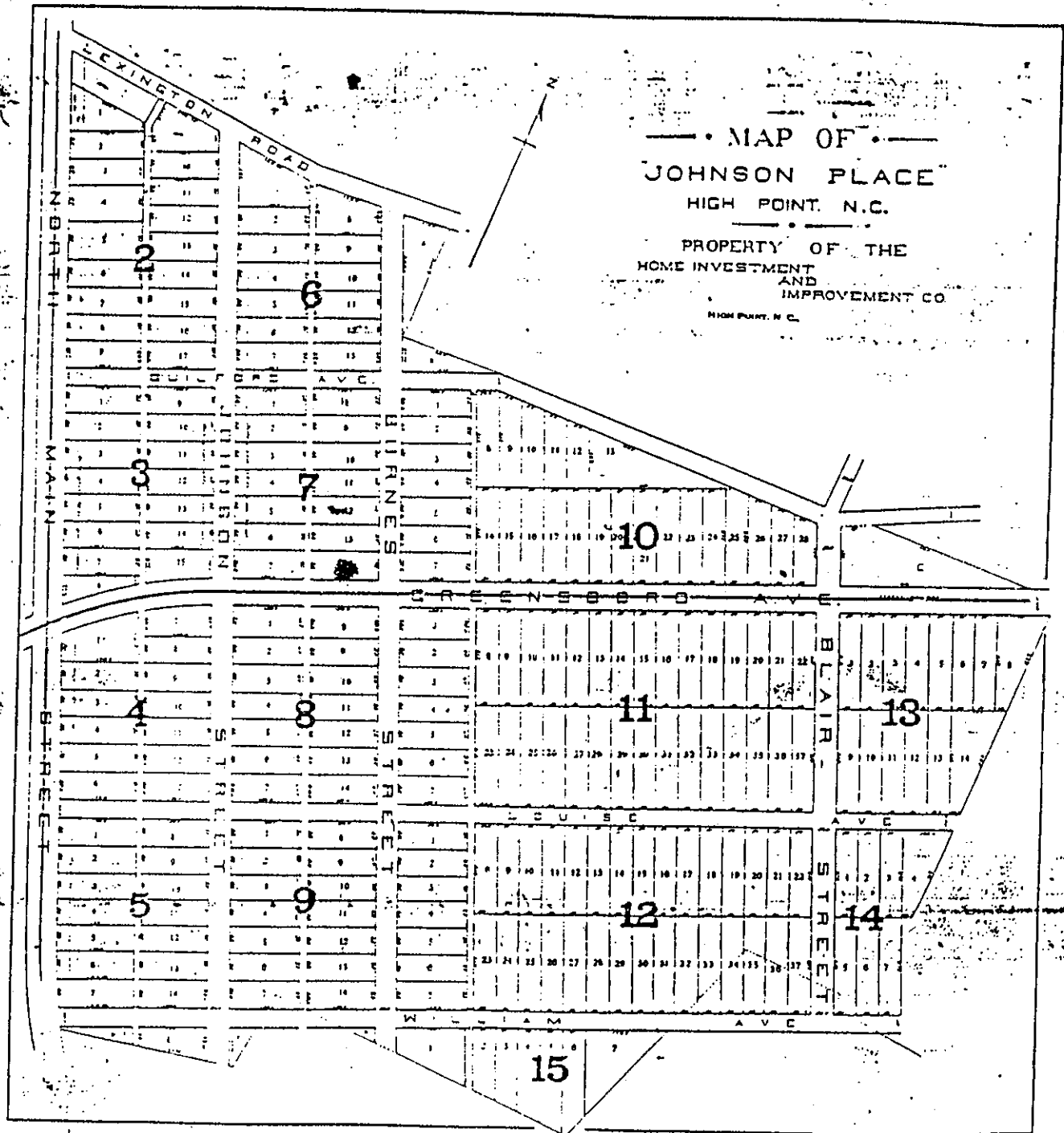
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1987

**PART ONE:**

**JOHNSON STREET:  
ITS HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURE**

# ONE OF OUR PROPERTIES

Maps and Prices of Others on Application.



For Prices, Terms, etc., see

R. H. WHEELER, Treasurer and Selling Agent

Rooms 207-209 Trust Company Building

HIGH POINT, N. C.

## **JOHNSON STREET: A HISTORY**

The Johnson Street Historic District represents the best-preserved section of Johnson Place, High Point's first major "streetcar suburb," which was laid out by developer R. Homer Wheeler in 1907. During the 1910s and 1920s the four tree-lined blocks of Johnson Street were the premier location for the residences of the men who managed High Point's burgeoning furniture and hosiery industries. The handsome but unostentatious Bungalow, Four Square, Colonial, and Victorian style houses held not only mill owners, but also many civic leaders, including the publishers of the city's newspaper, the founders of the city's hospital, and many politicians. Children raised on Johnson street often made their mark far from the city, including New York Times music critic and author J.G. Briggs, Olympic medalist Harry Williamson, and four-star Army general Maxwell Thurman.

### **High Point: Furniture and Textile Boom Town**

The Guilford County city of High Point, North Carolina, has 64,107 citizens, according to the 1980 Federal Census.<sup>1</sup> With the larger cities of Greensboro and Winston Salem, and the smaller towns of Lexington and Thomasville, High Point makes up part of a metropolitan area known as the Triad. Today High Point is nationally recognized as the center of the furniture and hosiery industries in the South. The Southern Furniture Market, which convenes twice yearly in a five-million-square-foot multi-block downtown facility, is reputed to be the largest wholesale market for furniture in the world.<sup>2</sup> It draws manufacturers from around the globe, as well as from the numerous plants located in High Point and surrounding localities. The city also holds fourteen hosiery mills, producing annually more than 80,000 pairs of children's socks, men's hose, women's pantyhose, and related products. According to the High Point Convention and Visitor's Bureau, "This makes High Point the largest producer of hosiery in the world."<sup>3</sup>

Among North Carolina's larger cities, High Point is of comparatively recent origin. Though there had long been a scattering of farm settlements in the vicinity, High Point came into being in the mid 1850s when the mainline of the North Carolina Railroad crossed the recently-completed Fayetteville and Western Plank Road.<sup>4</sup> The new railroad was the major east-west route across the state, connecting Charlotte with the capital at Raleigh by 1856. The

plank road, built in 1849, was nearly as important for north-south travelers, for it linked the prosperous Winston Salem area with the Cape Fear River, which carried goods to the Atlantic Ocean. The place where the railroad and the wagon road met was the highest point on the rail line -- some 940 feet above sea level -- thence the name of the crossroad community. The North Carolina legislature officially chartered the City of High Point in 1859.<sup>5</sup>

High Point grew as a small trading community through the 1860s and 1870s.<sup>6</sup> The Plank Road became known as Main Street, and the railroad station was the center of town. In the 1870s and 1880s textile mills began springing up in earnest elsewhere in the Piedmont Carolinas, as Southern businessmen embarked on a widely-publicized campaign to "Bring the Mills to the Cotton Fields!"<sup>7</sup> The High Point area was less rich in water power than Randolph County or Alamance County nearby, and had fewer cotton farmers than the areas around Charlotte or Raleigh. So no cotton mills opened here in the nineteenth century. But the country-side around High Point did hold abundant timber.

In the 1870s Captain W.H. Snow of High Point pioneered the use of locally plentiful dogwood and persimmon wood to make shuttle-blocks for the cotton mills of the region.<sup>8</sup> Snow's idea was a novel one -- it is said that farmers came from miles around to marvel at the man who offered to pay good money for dogwood -- but it quickly proved a success. The inexpensive southern-made shuttles not only won customers across the South but soon captured Northern markets as well.

Once the woodworking machinery was in place, and a variety of logs were arriving at the Snow and Dalton (later Snow Lumber) Company, it was but a short step to begin making furniture. In 1888 son E.A. Snow organized the city's first furniture operation, High Point Furniture Company. The Tate Furniture Company and Eagle Furniture Company followed in 1893.<sup>9</sup>

At this same time, two railroad projects spurred the city's industrial development. About 1889 the High Point, Randleman, Asheboro and Southern Railroad was completed.<sup>10</sup> It ran south from the center of town out into the logging country of southern Guilford County and Randolph County, and assured High Point a steady supply of raw timber, including oak, hickory and walnut. In 1895 High Point received a second important boost when the new Southern Railway took control of the old North Carolina Railroad and the High Point, Randleman, Asheboro and Southern Railroad.<sup>11</sup> Made up of numerous smaller lines, the Southern formed a mighty trunkline through the industrial heart of the southeastern United States. High Point was now in an excellent position to ship its wood products all over the South, and all over the world.

The next fifteen years proved to be High Point's greatest boom period. More than three dozen new furniture plants sprang up around the bustling village. Notable among them were the Alma Desk Company (1896), Continental Furniture (1901), Globe Upholstery Furniture (1905), S.H. Tomlinson Furniture (1906), and Marsh Furniture (1906).<sup>12</sup> Furniture-related industries followed the wood-working plants. High Point companies provided wood veneers, bed springs, hardware, sawmill machinery and industrial steam engines. Local entrepreneur Ferd Ecker and national corporate giant Pittsburgh Plate Glass both supplied mirrors to the furniture makers. Some firms specialized in support services, such as Hall Printing which prospered by producing furniture catalogs. Other companies used wood-working technology to manufacture non-furniture items -- horse-drawn buggies by the Briggs

carriage works, wagon wheels by the North Carolina Wheel Company, and trolley cars by the Southern (later Thomas) Car Company.

In 1904 successful furniture investor and pants manufacturer J.H. Adams and his plant manager J.H. Millis joined forces with C.C. Robbins of neighboring Randolph County to introduce a second industry to High Point.<sup>13</sup> Their High Point Hosiery Mill marked the beginning of significant textile production in the community. It was soon joined by the 1905 Highland Mills and the 1910 Pickett Mills, both large cotton spinning plants, the 1907 Durham Hosiery mill, the 1912 Crown Hosiery plant and numerous other ventures.<sup>14</sup>

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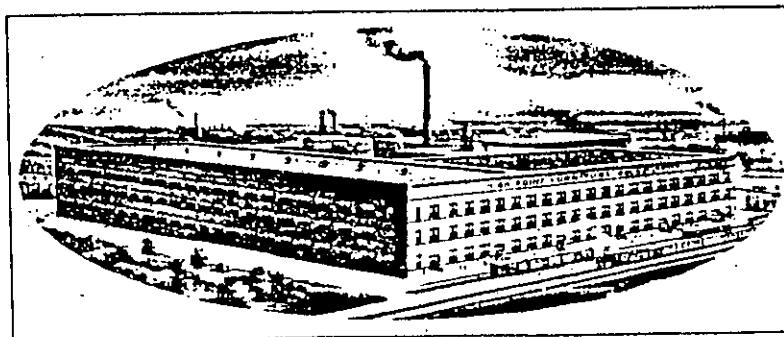
#### High Point Growth 1900 - 1940

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>POPULATION</u>	<u>PERCENT GROWTH</u>	
1900	4,163	---	
1910	9,525	128.8%	(NC's 3rd fastest after Durham, Lexington)
1920	14,302	50.2%	(NC's 4th fastest)
1930	36,745	156.9%	(NC's 3rd fastest after Greensboro, Durham)
1940	38,495	4.8%	

SOURCE: United States Bureau of the Census, 16th Census: 1940: p. 772.

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The economic boom caused by the furniture and hosiery industries in the 1890s and 1900s made High Point one of the fastest growing communities in North Carolina. In 1890 the population was a meager 1,500 souls, according to estimates by the Sanborn Map Company of New York. When Sanborn surveyors returned in 1896 they estimated that population had doubled, to 3,000.<sup>15</sup> According to the United States Census, High Point population jumped 128% from 1900 to 1910, when the officials counted 9,525 residents.<sup>16</sup> In two decades the furniture factories and new hosiery mills had transformed High Point from a crossroads village into a bustling small city.



Plant of High Point Furniture Company



## Building a Streetcar System

One of the surest symbols that a city had "arrived" as an important urban center, at the turn of the century, was the construction of an electric streetcar system. The first successful trolley system had replaced horse-drawn cars in Richmond, Virginia, in 1888, and a wave of enthusiasm for the new technology swept the United States.<sup>17</sup> Steel rails and overhead wires soon ran down the centers of city streets all over the country. This efficient mass-transit allowed America's cities to expand rapidly outward. Wealthy and middle class men who had sought to live as close as possible to downtown in the old "walking cities," now moved their families out into "streetcar suburbs," and began the pattern of daily commuting that still characterizes American life.

The first trolleys in North Carolina appeared in Asheville in 1889, followed by real estate man Edward Dilworth Latta's system in Charlotte in 1891.<sup>18</sup> It was no accident that real estate developers and civic boosters frequently were the ones behind streetcar efforts. Civic prestige and the profits from suburban land sales were often more important reasons for building a trolley system than were the five cent fares collected from passengers.

As early as 1900 the High Point City Council entertained proposals from investors interested in building a trolley line along the city's streets.<sup>19</sup> High Point was still too small to really need an electric streetcar system --almost all of the town was within a ten minute walk of the train station on Main Street. But High Pointers wanted one anyway because of symbolism, residential fashion, and real estate profits. There would be years of false starts before a system was completed.

The first company to get as far as laying track was the Inter-Urban Street Railway Company, headed by W.A. Heller, J.H. Millis, R.A. Wheeler, and R. Homer Wheeler. Inter-Urban received a franchise from the city in September of 1904, and by 1905 built a mile of track from a point near the train station up North Main Street.<sup>20</sup> With the rails laid, the company evidently ran out of money and could not find more before its "franchise" -- the permission granted by City Council to use the city's streets -- expired.

City Council next granted a franchise to a group of investors from Philadelphia and New York City, who proved no more adept at financing construction. After failed attempts by a succession of groups, the High Point franchise came under control of the North Carolina Public Service Company, which operated the trolleys in nearby Greensboro.<sup>21</sup> Led by L.H. Hale and B.L. Coler of New York City and Z.V. Taylor of Greensboro, the group had the finances and the expertise to finally complete a High Point system.

During the summer of 1910 rails were extended from North Main down the center of South Main Street, and by September of that year the first cars were in operation.<sup>22</sup> Eventually branch lines ran down English Street and other side streets. The trolleys ran for about a decade and a half in High Point. During the prosperous 1920s, many middle and upper income High Pointers purchased automobiles, and stopped riding the streetcars. When the North Carolina Public Service Company filed its annual report with the State of North Carolina in 1927-1928, it indicated that it no longer offered trolley service in High Point.<sup>23</sup>

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**STREETCAR TIMELINE (From City Council Minutes, NC Corporation Commission annual reports, and J.J. Farriss' books on High Point)**

1902	City Council grants first franchise, but no track is built.
1904	Franchise granted to Inter-Urban Street Railway Co. (W.A. Heller, J.H. Millis, R.A. Wheeler, R.H. Wheeler).
1905	One mile of track laid on North Main Street ( shown in photos in 1906 Farriss book). No trolleys operating.
1906	Inter-Urban Co. can't complete work and its franchise lapses. Franchise granted to Downs, Bramlette & VanBrunt of Philadelphia & New York.
1906-09	Downs et al sell franchise to North Carolina Electric Co., which goes into receivership, whereby franchise reverts to Downs et al, who sell to John Leddy of NYC. Still no trolleys in operation!
1910	Franchise comes under control of North Carolina Public Service, created the previous year to operate Greensboro system. Officers include L.H. Hale and B.L. Coler of NYC and Z.V. Taylor of Greensboro (later a major J.B. Duke associate in Charlotte). Track laid on South Main in May, <b>trolley cars operating on North and South Main</b> by September.
1911	Still only one mile of track in operation.
1916	Pass-track built on North Main near train station.
1923	NC Public Service is now operating track on Pine Street.
1924	NC Public Service petitions to abandon some North Main track.
1925-26	NC Corporation Commission bi-annual report indicates that NC Public Service Co. still runs High Point trolleys. (Company officers are all from Greensboro). Report may have been filed in 1925?
1927-28	NC Corporation Commission bi-annual report indicates that <b>NC Public Service Co. no longer runs trolleys in High Point</b> . Report seems to further indicate that no High Point trackage was operated in 1926. (Company officers are all from Charlotte, headed by Duke Power official E.C. Marshall).
1933-34	City requests Southern Public Utilities Co. (a Duke company) to repair street railway tracks on English Street [and Russell Street?]
1936-69	"Power company left a portion of the 4.5 miles of street trackage in place to accommodate the electric freight operations of the High Point, Thomasville & Denton Railroad, which brought some of the trackage in 1936, dieselized it in the mid-1940s, and operated it until 1969." (McPherson (1976), p. 8).

**CONCLUSION:** Trolleys operated from 1910 to about 1925-26 in High Point.

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Despite its late start, and the fact that it operated for less than two decades, the streetcar system had great impact on the urban geography of High Point. The mass transit system spurred residential development on the north side of the city for the first time. These first "streetcar suburbs" set a pattern of growth which High Point would follow for much of the twentieth century.

## **A "Streetcar Suburb" for High Point**

From the first days of the industrial boom, High Point's factories clustered on the south side of the city. Many mills lay along Southern Railway mainline which bisected the city. More lined the High Point, Randleman, Asheboro and Southern Railroad, whose tracks ran along South Hamilton Street parallel to South Main Street. The first generation of industrialists built their mansions on the south side of town, as well. During the late 1880s, 1890s and into the 1900s, handsome new houses lined South Main Street close to downtown, as entrepreneurs chose to live within walking distance of their fast-growing factories.

The rapid population growth of the city led developers to begin creating residential subdivisions beyond the original village in the 1890s. Most of these first "suburbs" were for laborers, though, rather than for managers. They, too, clustered close to the factories on the south side of town. The 1890 High Point Development Company, for example, laid out the blocks across the railroad from South Hamilton Street, where parts of Grimes Avenue, Wise Avenue, Clay Street, and Sharon Street run today.<sup>24</sup> In the same area, the 1905 Peoples Realty Company created present-day Smith, Walnut, White Oak, Cable and Granby streets at the end of Commerce Street.<sup>25</sup> There was one new middle class area which extended roughly from North Elm Street to North Lindsay Street (in the vicinity of today's High Point Hospital), platted between 1895 and 1903.<sup>26</sup> Located only a few hundred yards northeast of downtown, it was more an extension of the existing village residential area than a new suburb.

With the promise of a trolley system these patterns began to change. By the 1920s such suburbs as Roland Park (Brantley Circle) and developer Stephen C. Clark's Emerywood would draw High Point's elite away from South Main Street and out into the rolling countryside north of the city.<sup>27</sup> The project which began that transformation was R. Homer Wheeler's 1907 neighborhood known as Johnson Place, High Point's first major streetcar suburb.<sup>28</sup>



**R. H. Wheeler**

R. Homer Wheeler was barely 28 years old in 1907.<sup>29</sup> He was a second-generation High Point furniture entrepreneur, whose father R.A. Wheeler had been active both in real estate and in the business of coffin manufacturing, yet another furniture spin-off.<sup>30</sup> Young Homer started his own factory in 1901, the High Point Metallic Bed Company, and it soon produced some 20,000 "cheap and medium priced iron bedsteads and children's cribs" annually. In 1905 Wheeler had turned over management of the business to his younger brother C.L. Wheeler, and set about investing his capital in other ventures. Among these was the ill-fated Inter-Urban trolley company, undertaken with his father and hosiery man J.H. Millis as partners. It was no accident that when the company built its first mile of rail, that mile ran out North Main Street.

Though Wheeler's company failed before it could get the trolley system into operation, the young entrepreneur held firm in his belief that High Point would soon have streetcars. And he knew that trolleys would make land along North Main Street a valuable commodity. Wheeler looked at that rolling rural countryside, comfortably distant from the smoke and noise of the southside factories, and envisioned streets of suburban homes.<sup>31</sup>

On October 7, 1907 Wheeler moved to take advantage of the opportunity. He filed incorporation papers to create a real estate development firm known as the Home Investment and Improvement Company, with partners L.E. Johnson and L.R. Johnson.<sup>32</sup> Wheeler's choice of partners was quite pragmatic. L.E. Johnson owned some 68 acres of farmland bordering the east side of North Main Street. The land comprised the old Johnson family farm, located a mile north of town, at the crossroads of North Main Street and the old Greensboro-Lexington stagecoach road (now Lexington Avenue).<sup>33</sup>

Coincidentally, this same spot had earlier held a hamlet known as "Johnson's Campground," a place where travelers stopped as they travelled the Plank Road.<sup>34</sup> Back in the 1850s, when High Point was founded, Johnson's Campground was the closest pre-existing settlement. It was interesting that High Point's first streetcar suburb should be on the site of what might be called the city's earliest residential area.

The Home Investment and Improvement Company purchased the Johnson farm, plus another dozen acres from various owners to round out the parcel.<sup>35</sup> Next Wheeler and his partners mapped out a subdivision comprising approximately twelve rectangular blocks (SEE MAP AT BEGINNING OF SECTION). In addition to the already-existing North Main Street, Home Investment's new north-south streets were Johnson Street (the present-day 900-1200 blocks), Burnes Street (the present-day 900-1200 Blocks of Hamilton Street), and Blair Street (the present-day 900 and 1000 blocks of Blain Street, and part of the 1100 block). The newly-created east-west avenues included William (now East Parkway) Avenue, Louise Avenue, Greensboro (now East Farriss) Avenue, and Guilford Avenue. Greensboro Avenue was made wider than the rest, because Wheeler hoped it would one day hold an inter-city streetcar line, which would branch off the North Main Street line and run to Greensboro.

Wheeler knew that the most desirable parts of his land were the parcels lying along North Main: High Point citizens still associated success with a big house on the main boulevard. He made the North Main Street lots the largest in Johnson Place, sixty feet wide and 170 feet deep. But Wheeler saw that in other cities, well-to-do-citizens were beginning to

seek out quiet side-streets for their residences. He made the lots on Johnson Street and Hamilton Street sixty feet by 150 feet, almost as big as those on North Main. Next he set out to sell land.

As expected, North Main Street parcels sold fairly quickly to major factory owners, who often combined two or more lots to create a showplace. Among those who bought North Main Street lots on Johnson Place land were leading High Point lawyer, politician, and furniture company executive Dred Peacock, businessmen J.C. Siceloff and Archibald Sherrod, and most notably J.H. Adams, the town's top hosiery man.<sup>36</sup> Today many of these fine residences survive in the 1100 block of North Main, including Adam's outstanding Mediterranean style villa. The willingness of Adams and these other important business leaders to buy land in Wheeler's streetcar suburb undoubtedly helped convince fellow businessmen that this new-fangled type of residential area indeed had a future.

Johnson Street and the other avenues stretching back from North Main were slower to sell. Mirror manufacturer Ferd Ecker built an elegant Victorian residence at Johnson Street and Parkway Avenue in 1908. But few other lots sold until 1910 when citizens saw that North Carolina Public Service Company was on the verge of completing the long-awaited trolley line along Main Street. Then Johnson Street lots sold quickly: ten in 1910, nine in 1911, thirteen more by 1915.<sup>37</sup> By 1915 land along Johnson Street was virtually sold out.

Once the Home Investment and Improvement Company sold a lot, the new owner might build a house and move in within a few months. Or the land might lie vacant for years, changing ownership several times before a house was finally constructed. Throughout the 1910s and into the 1920s, the sounds of the hammer and saw were constantly heard on Johnson Street.

### **The Home of High Point Leaders**

Johnson Street quickly became the favorite address for the new leaders who were building High Point into a city. It was not the most fashionable street in town. That was North and South Main, whose mansions held the first crop of successful men, the well-established industrialists and merchants who had made their fortunes in the 1890s and early 1900s. The men who bought land on Johnson Street represented a new, rising generation of movers and shapers. Typically, Johnson Street industrialists took over and built upon the enterprises founded by their older neighbors on North Main Street. Johnson Street residents also included many of the town's doctors, lawyers, and other professionals. And Johnson Street residents took an active role in creating the "urban institutions" that made High Point a full-fledged city.

At least two of High Point's first generation of industrialists did erect residences on Johnson Street. Ferd Ecker, who lived for years in the landmark Victorian residence he built at #901, started one of the two major companies which supplied mirrors to the High Point furniture factories.<sup>38</sup> C.C. Robbins, who built #1204 and lived there briefly in the 1910s, had an even more significant role in High Point's economic history. An experienced hosiery manufacturer in neighboring Randolph County, he had come to High Point in 1905 to help J.H. Millis and J.H. Adams start the city's first hosiery mill.<sup>39</sup>



**Ferd. Ecker**



**C. C. Robbins**

Most Johnson Street industrialists were of the second generation, and got their big break in business by working as Secretary-treasurers of High Point furniture and textile corporations. This pattern had developed earlier in North Carolina's cotton mills. The standard practice, when it came time to build a factory, was for an established industrialist to pick a skillful young manager from an older mill. The two would start a new corporation, with the established industrialist supplying the bulk of the capital and receiving the title of "President," while the young manager invested what he could and took charge of the operation, holding the title "Secretary," "Treasurer," or "Secretary-treasurer." Lesser investors became "Vice President" or a member of the Board of Directors. The Secretary-treasurer ran the show, and his careful thinking and hard work determined the new concern's success. A good Secretary-treasurer might amass enough capital of his own to launch another venture, this time with himself as President.

Johnson Street was a street of Secretary-treasurers.<sup>40</sup> J.E. Marsh, Jr., (#909) rose to take the presidency of Marsh Furniture, the giant maker of kitchen cabinets which had been founded by his father. R.O. Lindsay (#1002) managed early factories for the Adams and Millis families before becoming president of his own Guilford Hosiery Mills. Robert H. Walker (#1007) served as secretary of the bustling Pickett Cotton Mills. Also on the upper rungs of the managerial ladder in High Point industry were Snow Lumber Company vice president Carter Dalton (#1013), Tomlinson Chair superintendent H.D. Sears (#908), Smart Sox secretary Vernon W. Idol (#912), Wilson-Whitener Knob president Edgar Whitener (#1001, #900), Guilford Table Company superintendent Richard T. Chappell (#1107), and Pittsburgh Plate Glass treasurer H.R. Williamson (#1203), among others.

These men played a vital part in two developments that transformed High Point's economy during the 1920s. One was that the dozens of small companies began to coalesce into large corporations. Symbolic of this trend was creation of the Adams-Millis hosiery chain in 1927, guided in part by Johnson Street's R.O. Lindsay.<sup>41</sup> The growth of Snow Lumber, Marsh Cabinets, and Tomlinson Chair -- all with Johnson Street connections -- led the way in the furniture industry. The second major economic development of the era was the

organization of the Southern Furniture Market in 1921.<sup>42</sup> There had been earlier small attempts at creating showrooms and scheduling events, but now a committee of the Chamber of Commerce made the effort part of the City's public agenda. Soon a massive market building arose on Main Street which remains the nucleus of this internationally-known facility today. On the founding board of the Southern Furniture Market were Johnson Street's Dr. A.C. Jones and Carter Dalton, and many of their neighbors helped direct the Market's operation over the years.

Other Johnson Street entrepreneurs managed a variety of service enterprises that supported the furniture and textile industries. John A. Eshelman (#905), for example, directed the Southern office of the "Red Book," the annual compendium of product information and financial ratings that is considered the bible of the furniture industry. W.B. Hall (#901) operated Hall Printing, whose large downtown plant specialized in producing color furniture catalogs.

Several leading High Point merchants and many of the city's professionals lived on Johnson Street. Jack Burris (#1200) and Charles Kephardt (#1007) started early automobile agencies. Three entrepreneurs, Robert Brockett (#907), G. Edwin Hedrick (#910), and C.C. Swain (#1102), built wholesale grocery operations. Among the professionals were physicians H.W. McCain (#1008) and I.T. Mann (#1207), pioneer psychiatrist Frederick R. Taylor (#1113), and veterinarian A.C. Jones (#1101). There were several attorneys, including Charles Barnhart (#1100) and Dallas Zollicoffer (#1207), and Judges Carter Dalton (#1013) and Lewis Teague (#1106). Perhaps the most influential of this group were J.P. Rawley, his son David, and grandson Joseph (#1002, #1209), who operated the city's daily newspaper The High Point Enterprise, throughout the 20th century.

As these men built their private businesses, they also created the public institutions vital to a maturing city. To understand what opportunities the early Johnson Street residents had in shaping their town, it is useful to look at how rapidly the City of High Point was growing. In percentage terms, the growth rate of the teens and twenties never quite equaled that of the 1890s. But in real numbers, the city's population increases during Johnson Streets early years were quite impressive. High Point population had not yet passed ten thousand when carpenters started work on the first Johnson Street house in 1908. The total jumped to 14,302 people in 1920, then more than doubled to 36,745 by 1930.<sup>43</sup>

Johnson Street residents were among the founding board of the Chamber of Commerce (1919), and several later served as president.<sup>44</sup> Johnson Street's John Peacock and Carter Dalton founded the city's first service club, the Rotary (1919), with Dalton as its initial president.<sup>45</sup> Johnson Street residents were instrumental in donating land and convincing North Carolina Methodists to build High Point College in the early 1920s.<sup>46</sup> Johnson Street men helped create the county's first airports in the 1930s.<sup>47</sup> Johnson Street businessmen and doctors both were closely involved in the city's first private hospitals, and when those efforts evolved into High Point Memorial Hospital in the 1950s, Johnson Street's W.B. Hall and Jack Burris spearheaded fundraising efforts.<sup>48</sup>

Johnson Street also had its share of politicians, including City Councilmen Robert Rankin (#1106) and H.R. Williamson (#1204). Robert Brockett (#907) served in the North Carolina General Assembly during 1915-16, succeeded by his neighbor Carter Dalton (#1013) in 1917-18.<sup>49</sup> Johnson Street even came close to sending one of its own to

Washington. Judge Lewis Teague (#1106) won the 1938 Democratic primary for the United States House of Representatives, and had no Republican opponent in the main election. But five days before the vote, he suffered a heart attack and died. Teague was only forty years old.

## **An Avenue of Mothers and Children**

While historians celebrate the accomplishments of Johnson Street's men, early residents remember the avenue for its women and children. Most Johnson Street women were wives and full-time homemakers. A handful were widows, such as Mrs. Louise (Johnson) Diffie (#1103) and Mrs. Nettie Vestal (#1001), who often owned rental property or took boarders into their homes -- two of the few "respectable" ways for widows and unmarried women to find employment in the 1910s and 1920s. Johnson Street women helped start High Point's women's clubs, were active in the city's churches, beautified their homes and landscaped their yards, and -- most of all -- reared their children.

"Many coats of paint, rolls of wallpaper, changes of furniture went into making our house a true home. The piano in the living room saw many an hour of practice, some with mother standing over a reluctant pupil with her trusty 'switch'," remembers Sue Folger Converse, who was a Johnson Street youngster in the 1940s. "Fun was had all up and down the street. There was the Hall family in the 900 block. We'd gather in the alley and play 'Kick the Can.' How many kids in those days boasted of 'snitching' a pomegranate from the Dalton house? At Irene Abernathy's house in the 1000 block we'd shoo the chickens from their chicken coops and play house! We children played with friends from the Presbyterian Church on up to Lexington Avenue."<sup>50</sup>

"There were ninety four kids living in houses in those four blocks," recalls Mark H. Taylor, who grew up on Johnson Street in the 1920s. "Since we didn't have television or radio, kids made their own games and amusements. A captain was democratically selected for each team, and teammates were chosen. 'Prisoner's Base,' 'Hide and Go Seek,' and 'Kick the Can' were played with ferocity."<sup>51</sup>

Children all attended elementary school in a facility on Ray Street, now gone, that was two blocks south of Johnson Street. "I remember a feeling of closeness among neighbors near and far," says Evelyn Barnhart Mitchell fondly. "Walking to Ray Street School with my friends was a fun time, especially when we crunched through ice crystals that formed in the red dirt along the way. After school we would stop at a nearby store for licorice or BB bats. Summertime pleasures included such innocent pastimes as hopscotch, roller skating, red light, treasure hunt and begging ice chunks from 'Jenkins,' the black driver of the horse-drawn ice wagon."<sup>52</sup>

"Mother was the original 'green thumb.' She was great with flowers, and her garden was always magnificent. A great believer in having her own compost heap, she was meticulous in its development," chuckles Mark Taylor. "One of my earliest memories was the ice wagon driven in the summertime by Charley, a huge black man, and his horse. Those were the days before air conditioning, and during the long hot summers Charley made his daily route which included Johnson Street. Mother would often find time to stop Charley in front of our house, and engage him in conversation. Sometimes she would inquire about his



wife and children, and dwell on them at length. Finally the horse would do his business, and Mother would hurriedly break off her conversation with Charley and return to the house." Taylor laughs, "After the wagon departed, she reappeared and told me to get a shovel and a wheelbarrow and clean up the mess. I was told to spread it on the compost heap. Fertile dirt was great addition, and the compost heap was large!"<sup>53</sup>

Nurtured in the relaxed warmth of Johnson Street, children often went on to become leaders in their own right. Many remained in High Point, notably David Rawley, who took over the High Point Enterprise from his father, and subsequently passed it to his son Joseph, also raised on the street.<sup>54</sup> Others made their mark far from home. Dr. Frederick Taylor helped develop dacron artificial arteries at North Carolina State University.<sup>55</sup> Donald Hubbard served as Marine Corps Base Commander at Camp Lejune, while his sister Elizabeth became a Vogue model and Pratt Institute art instructor in New York City.<sup>56</sup>

Perhaps the most widely known Johnson Street "alumni" were Harry Williamson, John G. Briggs, Jr., and the brothers Maxwell and Royster Thurman. Williamson, who lived in the 1200 block, discovered track as a student at High Point High School in the late 1920s.<sup>57</sup> He broke running records while on a full scholarship to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, then in 1936 was named to the United States Olympic Team. He won his country a medal at the Berlin games, capturing sixth place in the 800-yard dash. A few weeks later he and teammates set a world record for the relay at Britain's Empire Games, Williamson's last race before retiring from sports to become a textile executive.

John Briggs, Jr., grew up in the 1000 block, son of a Beeson Hardware Company executive whom neighbors remember took pleasure in singing around the house. After college in Chapel Hill, young Briggs went to the Curtis Institute of Music in New York, and rapidly made a reputation as a writer of articles and books about classical music.<sup>58</sup> For most of the 1940s he was music editor of the New York Post newspaper. From 1949 to 1952 served as editor of Etude, the nation's leading classical music magazine. Later he took the prestigious position of music critic for the New York Times. Today Briggs is the author of four books, including a biography of the conductor Leonard Bernstein, and a history of the Metropolitan Opera House.

The Thurman family lived at a couple of Johnson Street addresses before settling down at #908 in 1939. Sons John Royster Thurman II and Maxwell Thurman both went into the armed forces.<sup>59</sup> Royster, as the elder was known, became a top Army officer and commanded forces in Vietnam, before serving in the office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington. In 1979 he retired, as a Lieutenant General. Younger brother Maxwell attained even higher position. By 1983 he was a four-star general and the Army's Vice Chief of Staff, "the post which makes him the army's second-highest ranking officer."<sup>60</sup>

## **Johnson Street Since the 1920s**

As houses went up on Johnson Street, other buyers slowly purchased Homer Wheeler's remaining lots to the east, along Hamilton, Parkway, Louise, and Farriss streets. By 1927 the Home Investment and Improvement Company had completed land sales for all of the Johnson Place project. In that year the corporation officially dissolved.<sup>61</sup>

Johnson Street itself still had a handful of vacant lots as the country plunged into the Great Depression of the 1930s. It would not be until after World War II that economic conditions would encourage new construction, and these last sites would fill up with modest Ranch style houses.

By the advent of the Depression, Johnson Place was no longer High Point's only fashionable suburb. Homer Wheeler had gone on to develop Roland Park, with its central street Brantley Circle, just across North Main beginning in the 1910s.<sup>62</sup> In 1922 energetic young Stephen Clark opened a grand new suburb called Emerywood just to the north of Brantley Circle.<sup>63</sup> Designed by noted landscape architect Earle Sumner Draper of Charlotte, it featured curving streets, parks, and a golf course.<sup>64</sup> Soon other neighborhoods stretched northeastward toward the once-rural campus of High Point College.

While the next generation of High Point business and civic leaders usually built in these newer suburbs, Johnson Street residents seldom felt the urge to move. This loyalty was surprising -- in Charlotte's initial suburb of Dilworth, by comparison, researchers have found that residents often sold their houses and moved to curving streets of Myers Park when that posh area opened. But J.E. Marsh, Jr., kept his home on Johnson Street all his life, even after he took over presidency of Marsh Furniture Company. Likewise, Carter Dalton remained on Johnson Street when he stepped into leadership of Snow Lumber in the 1940s. Looking back at the history of individual houses on the street, it is possible to find many that stayed in the same family for twenty, forty, even sixty years.

Even when Johnson Street families moved, they often stayed on the street. Perhaps the record holder in this respect was John Briggs, Sr. He and wife moved into #1207 when they married in 1915, then built their own house at #1003. They raised their children there until 1926 when they moved to #1005 next door, keeping the old house as a rental property. In 1960, with his children long departed, John Briggs bought #1113 and lived out his days there.

As time went on, however, Johnson Street did lose some of its popularity. Residents grew old, and increasingly children or grandchildren did not want to take on the family homestead. The pattern was one seen all over America, as early streetcar suburbs with their trees and Bungalows were replaced in the public's imagination by far-flung automobile suburbs with Ranch houses.

Declining popularity made Johnson Street an easy target for change. Traffic planners paired Johnson and Hamilton streets as major one-way north-south thoroughfares. Utility experts recommended cutting back the street's arching canopy of trees, so that wires could pass more easily. Zoning officials declared that the future land use for most of the west side of Johnson Street should be businesses and offices. And businessmen, who were demolishing the old mansions of North Main street or converting them to businesses, began eyeing Johnson Street land for parking lots.

Longtime Johnson Street residents fought back, and turned aside some of the worst threats. But it was not until the 1980s that they began to make real headway in their efforts to protect their street. By that time, attitudes toward old neighborhoods had begun to change all over the United States. Young homebuyers, concerned about energy prices and searching for

a sense of community warmth, rediscovered the early streetcar suburbs. Slowly, despite zoning and traffic, Johnson Street began to regain its appeal.

In 1986 a coalition of energetic newcomers and long-time residents worked to have most Johnson Street properties returned to residential zoning. They also had the city declare nearly all of the four original blocks of Johnson Street to be High Point's first Historic District. Today a citizens board, aided by the High Point Department of Planning and Development, reviews all proposed changes to Johnson Street structures and ensures that they are in keeping with the area's historic character.

Once again children play on the sidewalks under Johnson Street's trees, and once again a rising generation of leaders calls the street "home." It is fitting that High Point's first "streetcar suburb" is today High Point's first neighborhood preservation success story.

## History Notes

1. 1980 United States Census
2. "Southern Furniture Market: the Premier Event in the Home Furnishings Industry" brochure (High Point: Furniture Factories Marketing Association, 1986?).
3. High Point Convention and Visitor's Bureau, "Welcome to High Point, North Carolina, Home of the N.C. Shakespeare Festival and the Henredon Classic LPGA Golf Tournament" (High Point, Convention and Visitor's Bureau, 1986?).
4. Bill Sharpe, A New Geography of North Carolina (Raleigh: Sharpe Publishing Company, 1958), pp. 812-813, hereinafter cited as Sharpe, a New Geography. The state-owned railroad officially arrived at High Point November 22, 1855, and the entire line linking Charlotte in the west with Raleigh and Goldsboro in the east opened January 30, 1856.
5. Roy J. Shipman, High Point, a Pictorial History (High Point: Hall Printing, 1983), pp. 1-2, hereinafter cited as Shipman, High Point, a Pictorial History.
6. The high site is said to have made the community something of a "resort and health center" in early these decades: Sharpe, a New Geography, p. 820. Holt McPherson, ed., High Pointers of High Point (High Point: High Point Chamber of Commerce, 1976), p. 68, hereinafter cited as McPherson, High Pointers of High Point.
7. Broadus Mitchell, The Rise of Cotton Mills in the South (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1921), pp. 113, 146, 157. Paul M. Gaston, The New South Creed: a Study in Southern Mythmaking (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1970), p. 38.
8. Snow had been an officer in the Union army in the Civil War, and later returned South to High Point. Shipman, High Point, a Pictorial History, p. 8. Sharpe, A New Geography, p. 814. Lowell McKay Whatley, Jr., The Architectural History of Randolph County, North Carolina (Asheboro: City of Asheboro, 1985), p. 19, hereinafter cited as Whatley, Randolph County.
9. Frank J. Sizemore, ed. Buildings and Builders of High Point (High Point: Chamber of Commerce, 1947), pp. 146-151, hereinafter cited as Sizemore, Buildings and Builders. McPherson, High Pointers of High Point, p. 110. For more on the evolution of the furniture industry, see David N. Thomas, "Early History of the North Carolina Furniture Industry, 1880-1921" (unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1964).
10. McPherson, High Pointers of High Point, p. 118. Sizemore, Buildings and Builders, p. 115.

11. Hugh Talmadge Lefler and Albert Ray Newsome, North Carolina: the History of a Southern State, 3rd ed. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1973), p. 517.

12. Sizemore, Buildings and Builders, p. 149-50. McPherson, High Pointers of High Point, p. 110.

13. Marjorie W. Young, ed. Textile Leaders of the South (Columbia, South Carolina: R. L. Bryan Company, 1963), pp. 3, 726, hereinafter cited as Young, Textile Leaders of the South. Sizemore, Buildings and Builders, pp. 166-171.

14. Sizemore, Buildings and Builders, pp. 166-171. Young, Textile Leaders of the South, p. 490. See also the Annual Reports published regularly by the North Carolina Bureau of Labor and Printing through the mid 1920s, which give detailed factory-by-factory statistical data for the hosiery industry in High Point and across the state.

15. The Sanborn Map Company, based in New York, produced detailed building-by-building maps used by insurance companies in assessing fire insurance risks. Sanborn sent mapmakers to nearly every sizable town in the United States on a regular basis during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The mapmakers visited High Point often during its years of most rapid growth, and the surviving maps are marvelous documents of the changing city. The North Carolina Collection in Wilson Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has High Point Sanborns for 1885, 1890, 1896, 1902, 1906, 1911, 1917, 1924, and 1924 updated to 1936.

16. United States Bureau of the Census, 16th Census, 1940, p. 772. This table conveniently recaps population of North Carolina cities through 1940.

17. Kenneth T. Jackson, Crabgrass Frontier: the Suburbanization of the United States (New York: Oxford University Press, 1985), p. 108, hereinafter cited as Jackson, Crabgrass Frontier.

18. Dan L. Morrill and Ruth Little-Stokes, "Architectural Analysis: Dilworth: Charlotte's Initial Streetcar Suburb" (Charlotte: Dilworth Community Association and the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1978), History section, p. 1.

19. High Point City Council Minutes, Index, p. 46.

20. Ibid., book 1, pp. 283, 286; book 2, pp. 21, 55, 69, 72, 97, 101, 102, 153. A picture of the track on North Main Street, stopping just short of downtown, can be seen in J.J. Farriss, High Point, North Carolina 4th edition, 1906, [unpaginated]. Newspaper editor Farriss (for whom one of Johnson Place's streets was named) produced a series of wonderful picture books of the city around the turn of the century.

21. High Point City Council Minutes, book 3, pp. 289, 290, 313. See also Index, pp. 47-48. North Carolina Corporation Commission, Annual Report: 1910, pp. 706-707.

22. High Point City Council Minutes, book 3, p. 313. North Carolina Corporation Commission, Annual Report: 1910, pp. 706-707. Unfortunately the High Point Enterprise for these years is no longer extant, making it difficult to pinpoint the exact date that service started. The problem evidently has plagued previous historians -- High Point histories barely

mention trolley service, and P. Robinson Blackwell and Alexander R. Stoesen's The History of Guilford County (Greensboro: Guilford County Bicentennial Commission, 1976), p. 182 mistakenly asserts that "High Point's street railway went into operation in 1915...."

23. As with the date that trolley service started, it is difficult to learn exactly when service stopped. On October 21, 1924 City Council passed a resolution "allowing abandonment and removal of tracks on North Main Street by North Carolina Public Service Company:" High Point City Council Minutes, book 5-3, p. 704. Service probably ended within a matter of months. The 1925-26 Report of the North Carolina Corporation Commission notes that "North Carolina Public Service Company...operates electric street railway properties in Greensboro, High Point, Salisbury," p. 139. The next Report, for 1927-28, says "Street railways operated in Greensboro and Salisbury" only, p. 140.

24. High Point Tax Office, Plat Maps, book 53, p. 561. Thanks to Ernie Fleming in the High Point Tax Office for assistance in plat map research for this essay.

25. High Point Tax Office, Plat Maps, book 2, p. 98.

26. High Point Tax Office, Plat Maps, book 2, pp.

27. Stephen C. Clark, "Residential Development has Provided a Romantic Chapter of Local History" in McPherson, High Pointers of High Point, pp. 81-83.

28. Sam Bass Warner, Jr., Streetcar Suburbs: the Process of Urban Growth in Boston, 1870-1900 (New York: Atheneum Press, 1973), is the best study of the "streetcar suburb" phenomenon. See also Jackson, Crabgrass Frontier, especially pp. 103-116.

29. Shipman, High Point, a Pictorial History, p. 121. J.J. Farriss, High Point, North Carolina 7th edition, 1912 [unpaginated].

30. McPherson, High Pointers of High Point p. 33. J.J. Farriss, High Point, North Carolina 6th edition, 1911 [unpaginated].

31. The Sanborn Map for 1890 indicates that High Point's prevailing winds blew southwest, thus keeping industrial smoke away from the north side of the city.

32. Guilford County Register of Deeds Office, Records of Corporations, book D., p. 113.

33. Guilford County Register of Deeds Office, Deed Book 196, p. 127. Title search courtesy of Kevin Mack.

34. Mrs. Charles C. Perry, "The Railroad Crosses the Old Plank Road and a Setting for a City is Laid," in McPherson, High Pointers of High Point pp. 54-56.

35. Guilford County Register of Deeds Office, Deed Book , p. 290; Deed Book 194, pp. 342, 343. Title search courtesy of Kevin Mack.

36. Among the early notables on the east (Johnson Place) side of North Main Street were Dred Peacock in the 1000 block (house demolished), Archibald Sherrod (#1100), J.C. Siceloff (#1104), and the town's leading citizen J.H. Adams (#1108). J.E. Millis, son of the man who financed the city's first hosiery facility, lived in the 1000 block (house now gone). Another son, H.A. Millis, bought land from Wheeler across North Main Street. High Point City Directory collection, High Point Public Library. See also H. McKelden Smith, ed. Architectural Resources: An Inventory of Historic Architecture, High Point, Jamestown, Gibsonville, Guilford County (Raleigh: North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 1979), pp. 53, 63. Nominating the 1100 block of North Main to the National Register of Historic Places would provide tax incentives to encourage owners to renovate rather than demolish these mansions, now used for business purposes.

37. Guilford County Register of Deeds Office, Grantor Records.

38. J.J. Farriss, High Point, North Carolina 6th edition, 1911 [unpaginated]. See also Sizemore, Buildings and Builders, p. 129. Shipman, High Point, a Pictorial History, p. 137.

39. McPherson, High Pointers of High Point pp. 33, 37. Shipman, High Point, a Pictorial History, pp. 186-87. Young, Textile Leaders of the South, pp. 490-91.

40. Except as noted, information on Johnson Street residents and their occupations is drawn from the City Directory collections at the High Point Public Library and the High Point Chamber of Commerce, supplemented by the High Point city directories in the North Carolina Collection in Wilson Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

41. Young, Textile Leaders of the South, pp. 490-91. Sizemore, Buildings and Builders, p. 170. Shipman, High Point, a Pictorial History, pp. 186-87.

42. McPherson, High Pointers of High Point, pp. 22, 25-26. Shipman, High Point, a Pictorial History, p. 218. High Point Enterprise, January 16, 1956. For a history of earlier markets in the area, see David N. Thomas, "A History of Southern Furniture" Furniture South, vol. 46 no. 10 (October 1967), pp. 26-28.

43. United States Bureau of the Census, 16th Census, 1940, p. 772. This table conveniently recaps population of North Carolina cities through 1940.

44. Dr. A.C. Jones and Carter Dalton were on the founding board of the Chamber in 1919. Among Chamber of Commerce Presidents were Johnson Street's W.B. McEwen (1928-31) and D.A. Rawley (1957): McPherson, High Pointers of High Point, p. 44. Sizemore, Buildings and Builders, p. 218-20 has a complete list of early Chamber members.

45. Sizemore, Buildings and Builders, p. 276. Robert B. Rankin, letter to Charles Navratil, July 29, 1986, in the files of the Johnson Street Neighborhood Association.

46. John W. Hedrick, whose family later owned #1008, was a major actor in establishment of the college, as was Carter Dalton at #1013. McPherson, High Pointers of High Point, pp. 102, 104. For more on the college see William R. Locke, No Easy Task: the First Fifty Years of High Point College (High Point: High Point College, 1975).

47. W.B. McEwen (#1108) helped fund Greensboro Municipal airport in the 1920s. McPherson, High Pointers of High Point, p. 19.

48. Residents R.O. Lindsay, H.W. McCain, and Carter Dalton, and landowner Guy Duncan of Johnson Street were among partners in the various private predecessors to High Point Memorial. McPherson, High Pointers of High Point, pp. 12, 87-89.

49. John L. Cheney, Jr., North Carolina Government, 1585-1979: A Narrative and Statistical History (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State, 1981), pp. 490, 494. For more on Dalton, see High Point Enterprise, July 9, 1972.

50. Sue Folger Converse, "Memories of a Former Johnson Street Resident/Native" (unpublished typescript, 1986, in the files of the Johnson Street Neighborhood Association).

51. Mark H. Taylor, letter to Charles Navratil, August 22, 1986, in the files of the Johnson Street Neighborhood Association.

52. Evelyn B. Mitchell, letter to Charles Navratil, July 30, 1986, in the files of the Johnson Street Neighborhood Association.

53. Mark H. Taylor, letter to Charles Navratil, August 22, 1986, in the files of the Johnson Street Neighborhood Association.

54. Shipman, High Point, a Pictorial History, pp. 202-203. McPherson, High Pointers of High Point, pp. 38, 43.

55. Frederick H. Taylor, letter to Charles Navratil, August 25, 1986, in the files of the Johnson Street Neighborhood Association.

56. Hampton Hubbard, letter to Charles Navratil, September 9, 1986, in the files of the Johnson Street Neighborhood Association.

57. High Point Enterprise, June 21, 1981.

58. John G. Briggs, Jr., letter to Charles Navratil, July 23, 1986, in the files of the Johnson Street Neighborhood Association.

59. Shipman, High Point, a Pictorial History, p. 210. Raleigh News and Observer, August 9, 1987. Ron Thurman, letter to Charles Navratil, July 28, 1986, in the files of the Johnson Street Neighborhood Association.

60. Shipman, High Point, a Pictorial History, p. 210.

61. Guilford County Register of Deeds Office, Records of Corporations, book G, p. 359.

62. High Point Tax Office, Plat Book 3, p. 60. Shipman, High Point, a Pictorial History, p. 355. Stephen C. Clark, "Residential Development has Provided a Romantic Chapter of Local History" in McPherson, High Pointers of High Point, pp. 81-83.



63. Stephen C. Clark, " Residential Development has Provided a Romantic Chapter of Local History" in McPherson, High Pointers of High Point, pp. 81-83.

64. Ibid. For a copy of Draper's plan see Shipman, High Point, a Pictorial History , p. 330. For more on Draper see Thomas W. Hanchett, "Earle Sumner Draper: City Planner of the New South," in Catherine Bishir and Lawrence Earley, eds. Early Twentieth-Century Suburbs in North Carolina (Raleigh: North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 1985), pp. 78-79.

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## **JOHNSON STREET: ARCHITECTURE**

Johnson Street is a straight, tree-shaded residential avenue located to the north of High Point's central business district. The Johnson Street Historic District consists of the original four-block segment of the street that was laid out in 1907. Its forty-four houses date largely from the 1910s and 1920s, though there are a handful of examples from the 1930s, late 1940s, and early 1950s.

The predominant architectural types are one-and-a-half-story Bungalows and two-story examples of what some architectural historians call the "Rectilinear" style. Other styles represented include Colonial, Victorian, Craftsman, Tudor Revival, Ranch, and High Point's best early example of Prairie architecture, a style rare in North Carolina.<sup>1</sup> The houses are comfortable but less ostentatious than might be expected, considering their original owners' high positions in High Point industry, commerce, and civic affairs. It may be that one reason for the city's rapid growth in the early twentieth century was that the men who directed High Point's economy in those boom years invested profits back into their businesses, rather than indulging in personal luxury.

The Historic District is slightly less than four blocks long, consisting of the street itself and the houses facing it. Johnson Street runs almost due north-south, and is nearly level. Parallel to Johnson Street to the east is Hamilton Street, a similar residential avenue built up a bit later than Johnson Street. Parallel to Johnson Street to the west is North Main Street, a mix of early-twentieth century mansions and recent business structures. An alley runs along back lot lines between Johnson Street and North Main. The District is bounded to the south by Parkway Avenue and the grounds of the First Presbyterian Church. At the north, the District boundary stops just short of Lexington Avenue, a major commercial thoroughfare that was the terminus of Johnson Street for many years.

### **The Landscape of Johnson Street**

R. Homer Wheeler's Johnson Place subdivision was a grid of straight streets and rectangular blocks, an arrangement found in most of North Carolina's early streetcar suburbs. Such tree-shaded "checkerboards" at the edges of towns represented a transition step between earlier urban street patterns and later suburbs, such as High Point's Emerywood, which used naturalistic curving avenues. High Point residents were not ready quite yet to accept the new notion of "suburban" as opposed to "urban" living. In fact, Wheeler's sales brochure for his development stressed among its advantages -- along with "Highest Location" and "Beautiful Outlook" -- the fact that Johnson Place was "Strictly City Property, with City Conveniences."

"Careful Restrictions" were another selling point. In 1907, zoning had not yet been instituted anywhere in North Carolina, so suburban developers used restrictive clauses written into lot deeds to regulate construction and land use in their subdivisions. Wheeler forbid any use "that will constitute a nuisance or injure the value of any neighboring lot," including "livery, feed, or sale stables, and storage warehouses for oils, explosives, and fertilizers." He also stated that "No liquors [sic] or ardent spirits are to be sold upon the property." Other clauses regulated the appearance of the street. "The manner in which said lot is laid out on said map shall be adhered to." "No residence shall be erected [with] a value of less than One thousand Five Hundred & 00/100 dollars (\$1500.00)." That sum seems ridiculously small by 1980s standards, but in the 1910s middleclass houses indeed did cost from \$1500 to \$5000 to build.

Perhaps the deed restriction which had greatest impact on Johnson Street's landscape was the one that required "that the building line as shown on the said map of Johnson Place shall be observed and the front projections of any building built thereon shall not extend over said building line." Today the porches of Johnson Street march along rhythmically twenty-five feet from the street, close to that line drawn seventy years ago.

Though Johnson Street lacked pavement in its early years, Wheeler's brochure did boast of cement sidewalks and some shade trees initially. The rows of handsome trees on either side of the street today seem to date from the 1920s. Wrote High Point Enterprise editor Holt McPherson in a 1960s column:

Those beautiful trees which line North Main and Johnson Streets ... were planted by the late John B. Blair. Originally an engineer, Mr. Blair, who won a place in the legislature in the 1928 political overturn, was a lover of trees. He talked the city governing board nearly half a century ago into appropriating \$1 each for the purchase and planting of trees which constitute one of the best investments of public funds in municipal history.<sup>2</sup>

Over the years Johnson Street residents filled their yards with fruit trees, ornamental shrubs, and other plantings, which today make the Historic District a lush garden. Originally there were vegetable plots and even chicken houses behind many of the dwellings, where each family raised an important part of its food. There is little physical evidence of this today. Nearly every house does have a detached garage out back, most dating from the construction of the residence. Many are simple one-bay frame affairs, but a few are quite elaborate. The two-story structure behind Ferd Ecker's house (#900), for example, is really a good-sized barn, an interesting reminder of Johnson Street's semi-rural character in 1908. Carter Dalton's later two-story carriage house (behind #1013), by contrast, has an upstairs apartment and its exterior is elegantly finished to match the main house.

## Architecture

The first-time visitor to Johnson Street first notices the trees, the yards, and the lines of porches. The 1900s, 1910s, and early 1920s were the heyday of the porch in America.<sup>3</sup> Every new residence, it seemed, had a broad cool front veranda. In that era before air conditioning, the porch was a breezy outdoor living room, where the family sat and visited with neighbors on summer evenings. Children loved porches, too, for they were an outdoor playground even when it rained. Beginning in the 1920s tastes changed and porches got smaller and smaller, until by the Ranch house era of the 1950s they disappeared.

Next, the Johnson Street visitor notices the houses attached to those porches. Most of the dwellings have two floors, with the upper one sometimes squeezed under the roof in what architectural historians call a "one-and-a-half-story" arrangement.<sup>4</sup> Gable roofs and hip roofs predominate. Exterior walls are often simple overlapping weatherboard, also known as clapboard. Sometimes wood shingles or horizontally grooved "novelty" or "german" siding are used. About a quarter of the dwellings are covered in red brick.

Johnson Street residences reflect the major architectural trends of the era. High Point had no professional architects at this time, so most designs were likely created by local contractors, inspired by nationally published books and magazines, and refined in collaboration with homeowners. Johnson Street houses are a blend of architectural styles, but the predominant flavor is post-Victorian.

In the late 19th century, Victorian architecture had been all the rage. Complex building shapes, elaborate rooflines, multi-hued paint schemes, and abundant "gingerbread" ornament drawn from every historical era characterized the style. The first houses on Johnson Street show the lingering influences of the Victorian era. The best is Ferd Ecker's mansion at #900. It is a wonderful two-story jumble of wings and bays capped by a profusion of hip, gable, and dormer roofs. There are at least half a dozen different window shapes, and walls are covered with both shingles and weatherboarding, all to delight the eye of the passerby. Originally Ecker used a lively four-color paint treatment; a dark color on the second story, a lighter hue on the first story, and yet another light color on most of the trim, with a dark accent for the window sash. Ecker's house is the only full-blown Victorian on the street, but several other early dwellings incorporate complex Victorian massing, or use the ornate turned porch columns and balusters popularized in the era.



Residence of Ferd. Ecker

By the turn of the century American architects had grown tired of Victorian chaos, and they began proposing simpler new alternatives. One post-Victorian style was the Colonial Revival. The straightforward boxy symmetry of America's colonial days had been out of fashion for years, but its simplicity now found a new audience. Many Johnson Street houses show Colonial influences, both in massing and in the small square window panes used by many builders. The most faithful Colonial examples on the street are the Marsh and Peacock houses (#909 and #911) at the corner of Louise Avenue. They are two-story gable-roofed dwellings executed in the red brick and white trim of the Virginia Tidewater region. Each front facade is a balanced composition, with the door at the center and two small-paned windows at each side. There are massive brick end chimneys flanked by quarter-round windows.

One interesting variant of the Colonial should be noted before moving on to Johnson Street's two most popular post-Victorian styles. That is the Dutch Colonial. Based very loosely on buildings found in the former New Amsterdam colony, its trademark is the barn-like gambrel roof. Johnson Street's Dr. A.C. Jones House (#1101) is the best example of the mode in the Historic District, a dainty cottage that looks to be straight out of the pages of the house-and-garden magazines of the 1920s. The earlier C.C. Swain House (#1102) across the street blends a Dutch Colonial gambrel roof with Victorian massing.

One of the best-loved post-Victorian styles on Johnson Street was the Bungalow. It was inspired by the rustic structures of British India, where the word "bangla" means "a low house with porches all around," according to Bungalow historian Clay Lancaster.<sup>5</sup> American Bungalows had broad roofs, calculated to give the structure a low one-story look even if it had a full second floor up under the rafters. Wide eaves were often supported by brackets, and a porch invariably dominated the front of the house. Detailing was purposely woodsy. Wood shingles, square-hewn brackets, wide plain window surrounds, chunky square porch columns and occasionally rough stonework gave the required post-Victorian air of simplicity. Among Johnson Street's well-preserved Bungalows are #907, #1003, #1007, #1200, and #1202.

Bungalow architecture also had a variant, known as the Craftsman style. Craftsman houses made no attempt to appear low and one-story. But otherwise they incorporated the rustic touches of the Bungalow. Carter Dalton's two-story residence at #1013 is a good



**Residence of Carter Dalton**



RESIDENCE OF W. G. BURNETT

Craftsman example, with its bracketed wide eaves, and its chimneys and porch piers of stone. Johnson Street's outstanding Craftsman dwelling is the Burnett-McCain House (#1012). From its wide eaves, to its woodshingled walls, to its rambling porches with wide slat-like balusters, the house appears inspired by Gustav Stickley's Craftsman magazine, a seminal design periodical of the post-Victorian movement.

The other favorite Johnson Street post-Victorian style was what some architectural historians now label the Rectilinear. The term was coined by two Chicago researchers, Wilbert Hasbrouk and Paul Sprague.<sup>6</sup> They observed that, even before Frank Lloyd Wright began to develop his radical Prairie style, there were post-Victorian builders who forged a straightforward new style virtually devoid of historic forms or ornament. Others have since noted the phenomenon in all parts of the United States, especially during the 1900s and 1910s. Rectilinear houses are boxy and plain-trimmed. Hip roofs are common, with gables used in some regions of the country. One variant is known as the Four Square, for its cube-like shape and its four-rooms-up-and-four-down interior plan. In the South, the most popular Rectilinear variant has rectangular massing with a center front door, a wide porch, and a dormered hip roof. Numerous Johnson Street houses can be classed as Rectilinear, including #908, #1001, #1002, #1004, #1006, #1100, #1110, #1112 and #1209.

While the Rectilinear style found many followers in North Carolina, Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie style won few adherents. Wright, America's best-known architect, developed a new approach to architecture that turned its back on all norms of residential design.<sup>7</sup> His houses, without attics, basements, or parlors copied no historic styles, but rather forged a new low-slung look designed to blend with the midwestern Prairie. Wright's innovations received much attention in the press, and are now credited with inspiring the Ranch style seen everywhere in the 1950s and 1960s. But in the early years of the twentieth

century, few wanted to take a chance on such new ideas. In the midst of the Johnson Street Historic District is 1912 residence (#1207) of Dallas Zollicoffer, a flamboyant young lawyer. Zollicoffer chose the Prairie style for his dwelling, and today it survives in good original condition. The two-story structure has flat, wide-eaved hip roofs. Walls are rough-textured stucco and windows swing out on hinges. Initially the main entrance was in a side wing, and the spacious front porch was solely an outdoor living room -- a favorite Prairie touch. Today a break in the porch's balustrade wall allows it to be used more conventionally, the only exterior alteration to the dwelling.



RESIDENCE OF DALLAS ZOLLICOFFER

Construction on Johnson Street in the late 1920s and 1930s continued earlier themes. Historical styles gained vogue once more, mainly Colonial Revival and a new mode known loosely as Tudor Revival. Tudor houses took inspiration from medieval English and French country architecture. The steep gables and narrow eaves of the 1925 Lewis Teague House (#1106) show Tudor influence, as do the wood and stucco "half-timbering" in the gables of the earlier Dr. Frederick R. Taylor House (#1113).

New residential construction on Johnson Street halted in the 1930s due to the economic hardships of the Great Depression. It did not resume until the late 1940s when the shortages of building materials caused by World War II had passed. Then builders filled the last handful of vacant lots with a totally new building type, the Ranch house. Ranch houses were low, one-story affairs, with big picture windows and little or no porch space. The ones on Johnson Street (#900, #902, #906, #1104, #1105) fit somewhat uncomfortably amongst the large old two-story houses, but their presence signalled the continuing vitality of the area; most were built as retirement cottages for long-time residents of Johnson Street.



## Conclusion

Johnson Street has changed very little in appearance since the last house was built in the early 1950s, and it remains substantially as it was during its heyday in the 1920s. Original porch columns and balustrades are gone from some houses. A number of dwellings have received artificial siding: asbestos shingles in the 1950s and 1960s, or aluminum or vinyl "weatherboard" in more recent years. But only one house within the Historic District boundaries has been demolished, the 1912 C.B. Vestal House which stood at #1009 until it was bulldozed for a parking lot in 1982.

Today the trees and shrubs planted by generations of residents are at full maturity. Porches still march down the street. And on summer evenings residents still stroll along those cement sidewalks that R. Homer Wheeler ballyhooed back in 1907, and chat with their neighbors.



Birdseye View of Residence Section in Northern Part of City

900 BLOCK OF JOHNSON STREET, CIRCA 1911. ECKER HOUSE AND BARN ARE AT LEFT, ESHELMAN HOUSE IS IN CENTER, AND DUNBAR HOUSE IS AT RIGHT.

## Architecture Notes

1. For more information on American residential architectural styles, two good sources are John J.G. Blumenson Identifying American Architecture: a Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945 (Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1977), and Marcus Whifen, American Architecture Since 1780, a Guide to the Styles (Cambridge, Massachusetts: The M.I.T. Press, 1969). Discussions of architecture in the High Point area include H. McKelden Smith, Architectural Resources: an Inventory of Historic Architecture, High Point, Jamestown, Gibsonville, Guilford County (Raleigh: North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 1979), and Lowell McKay Whatley, Jr. The Architectural History of Randolph County, North Carolina (Asheboro: City of Asheboro, 1985).
2. High Point Enterprise, undated clipping in the collection of Mrs. Garland A. Blair, High Point.
3. For more on the porch phenomenon, read Ruth Little-Stokes, "The North Carolina Porch: a Climatic and Cultural Buffer" in Doug Swaim, ed. Carolina Dwelling: Towards Preservation of Place: In Celebration of the North Carolina Vernacular Landscape (Raleigh: North Carolina State University School of Design, 1978), pp. 104-111.
4. A useful illustrated glossary of architectural terms may be found in Peter R. Kaplan, The Historic Architecture of Cabarrus County, North Carolina (Concord: Historic Cabarrus, Inc, 1981).
5. Clay Lancaster, "The American Bungalow," in Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach, eds. Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture (Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1986), pp. 79-106.
6. Wilbert R. Hasbrouk and Paul E. Sprague, A Survey of Historic Architecture in the Village of Oak Park, Illinois (Oak Park, Illinois: Landmarks Commission, Village of Oak Park, 1976), pp. 8-14. 16-19. See also Thomas W. Hanchett, "The Four Square House in the United States" (University of Chicago, unpublished M.A. Paper, 1986).
7. For background on the Prairie movement read H. Allen Brooks, The Prairie School: Frank Lloyd Wright and His Midwest Contemporaries (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1972).

**PART TWO:**  
**INVENTORY OF STRUCTURES**



For many years this lot and the adjacent lot at #902 were held as undeveloped land by mirror manufacturer Ferd Ecker, who lived across the street in the Victorian house at 901 Johnson Street. The Ecker family sold the lots in 1934, in the midst of the Great Depression, but it was not until the post World War II boom years of the early 1950s that dwellings were constructed.

This house was first owned by J. R. Agnew, an engineer for the Southern Railway, and his wife Frances. In 1955 Agnew sold to Edgar Whitener and his wife Nellie, who lived here for many years until his death in 1966 and hers in 1974. The Whiteners were already long-time Johnson Street residents, having lived at #1001 for twenty-six years. Edgar Whitener was a partner in a small woodworking factory with neighbor Lyndon Floyd Wilson, Sr. (1204 and 1211 Johnson Street). Their Wilson-Whitener Knob Company produced furniture components. Like many Johnson Street residents, Whitener took an active role in public affairs, serving as a Trustee of Catawba College in Salisbury, North Carolina.

The house is a simple example of the Ranch style, popular after World War II. Under its hip roof is a one-story red brick exterior with a "picture window," one of the trademarks of the style.

**1986 OWNER:**

HP Bank & Trust (Ida Yow heirs) (since 1974: Deed 2749-390)  
P.O. Box 2276, High Point, 27261  
(919) 889-3300

**PREVIOUS OWNERS:**

4/12/73 - 1/27/74: HP B&T (Nellie Whitener): deed 2660-185  
3/11/55 - 4/12/73: Mr.&Mrs. Edgar Whitener: deed 1592-426  
6/27/50 - 3/11/55: J.R. Agnew & wif. Frances: deed 1333-519  
12/31/49 - 6/27/50: J.K. Cole & Annie Cole: deed 1305-249  
6/4/46 - 12/31/49: W.R. Burgess & A. Burgess: deed 1133-134  
3/18/44 - 6/4/46: J.A. Eshelman & Helen : deed 1043-31  
2/16/45 - 3/18/44: Albert W. Loose & wife: deed 1061-460  
5/29/34 - 2/16/45: Eliz.K. Kalte & husband John : deed 735-131  
Chain of title unclear: Ferd Ecker owner in 1934  
10/28/10- : Charles Hoertel: deed 224-372  
-10/28/10: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

**TAX NUMBER:**

223-10-9

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

- Sanborn Maps: Land was vacant in 1917 and 1924
- McKelden Smith (1979), p. 61.
- James E. Whitener, letter to Charles Navratil, July 28, 1986: His parents Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Whitener lived in this house for many years until his death, 1966, and hers, 1974.
- Ruth A. Briles, letter to Charles Navratil, July 28, 1986

The Ferd Ecker house today is a High Point landmark, one of the city's best-preserved examples of late Victorian architecture, and the oldest house in the Johnson Street Historic District. The dwelling is also associated with two leading High Point industrialists, Ferd Ecker and W.B. Hall.

Ferdinand Ecker was among the earliest High Point entrepreneurs to make his fortune supplying components to the furniture industry. Wrote newspaper editor J.J. Farriss:

"The Ferd Ecker Glass Company ... was the second to begin business here for the manufacture of mirrors, which are used extensively in the furniture trade. The plant occupies a large two-story brick structure on Hamilton Street."

An early photo shows Ecker as a man of steely gaze, dark hair parted in the middle, upper lip hidden beneath a massive mustache with waxed tips. In August of 1908 the industrialist bought this prominent corner lot facing Johnson Street at Parkway Avenue. By 1909 Farriss noted that "Mr. Ecker has built a beautiful home in the Northern part of the city, which is attracting attention on account of its substantial beauty."

Ecker lived here until his death in the 1930s. In 1936 his heirs sold the residence to O.W. Woosley and his wife Nellie, who kept it until 1947, when Olivia Woosley Hall assumed ownership.

W.B. Hall, Sr., was the city's leading printer, and he and wife Olivia resided here for more than two decades. Hall had joined with established High Point printer W.A. Barber in 1920 to form Barber-Hall Printing. The firm developed a specialty of color-process printing, used heavily by the furniture industry. The company name changed to Hall Printing in 1948 when W. B. Hall, Jr., joined. As the son took on managerial responsibilities, W.B. Hall, Sr., devoted time

to civic affairs. Today he is remembered for chairing the \$300,000 fund drive which resulted in the 1950 construction of High Point Memorial Hospital. In 1986 the massive three-story brick plant of the Hall Printing Company remains an important part of downtown High Point, still in operation on South Hamilton Street near City Hall.

This large residence, which commands the southern entrance to the Historic District, blends Queen Anne Victorian architecture with influences of the then-new Colonial Revival. The typically complex Victorian massing is a happy jumble of bays and wings with hip and gable roofs, plus dormers. A wide cornice with Colonial modillions provides a degree of unity. Second-story walls are wood shingled, while the first story is weatherboard. A broad one-story porch wraps around the front and both sides. It has a cast iron top railing -- an unusual detail -- and paired doric columns and a balustrade with square balusters, a restrained Colonial Revival touch. Behind the house is a gable-roofed barn-like two-story garage & carriage house, which was erected at the same time as the main dwelling.

#### 1986 OWNER:

Judy V. Law (since 1981: deed 3183-650)  
same address. 27262  
(919) 889-6368

#### PREVIOUS OWNERS:

5/28/80 - 9/10/81: Fred. R. Law & wife Judy: deed 3055-94  
5/15/79 - 5/28/80: Jos. L. Davis & wife : deed 2939-120  
9/16/76 - 5/15/79: Robt. Brugh & wife Patsy : deed 2842-84  
7/5/74 - 9/16/76: Ken W. McAllister & wife: deed 2740-179  
2/27/47-7/5/74: Olivia W. Hall, heirs deed 1175-551

See also Will Book "k," p. 533; Book 202, p. 392

8/10/36 - 2/27/47: O.W. Woosley & wife Nellie: deed 907-639

3/4/32 - 8/10/36: Ferd Ecker heirs: deed 692-22

8/8/08 - 3/4/32: Ferd Ecker: deed 202-393

- 8/8/08: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

#### TAX NUMBER:

223-9-4

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Sanborn Maps: First shown in 1917: street number was 101.
- J.J. Farriss (1906) does not show house.
- J.J. Farriss (1909): first photo of house.
- J.J. Farriss (1912): panoramic photo. Ecker bio.
- McPherson (1976), pp. 10, 63, 89.
- Shipman (1983), p.201: photos of Hall, Sr., & building.

Like #900 next door, this lot remained vacant for many years. It passed through several hands before David A. Bullard and his wife Callie purchased it in 1946, immediately after the Second World War. In 1953, as the United States was in the midst of a major post-war building boom, the Bullards had this house erected. At that time David Bullard was vice president of Swaim Supply, a local plumbing company, and Callie worked as a Cashier at Pilot Life Insurance. Callie Bullard remarried in the 1960s, becoming Callie Bullard Newnam, and she continues to own the house to this day.

The house is a one-story brick Ranch style example. It has metal-frame windows, and -- like the Agnew House next door -- a hip roof and an inset front porch.

**1986 OWNER:**

Callie Bullard Newnam  
same address, 27262  
919) 884-1570

(since 1965)

**PREVIOUS OWNERS:**

?/?/55 - ?/?/65: Callie K. Bullard

5/30/46 - ?/?/55: D.A. Bullard & wf. Callie: deed 1122-380

2/16/45 - 5/30/46: J.A. Eshelman & wf. deed 1061-460

5/29/34 - 2/16/45: A.W. Loose & wife C>E.: deed 735-131

Chain of title unclear: F.Ecker owner by '34: deed 224-40

10/28/10- : Charles Hoertel: deed 224-372

-10/28/10: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

**TAX NUMBER:**

223-10-10

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

•McKelden Smith (1979), p. 61.

•Sanborn Maps: Land was vacant in 1917 and 1924.

One of the surest signs, at the turn of the century, that High Point was emerging as a national center for the furniture industry was the opening of an office of the Furniture Commercial Agency, publishers of the "Red Book."

Founded in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1888, the "Red Book" became the standard authority on the furniture industry, indispensable for its system of credit ratings. By the 1910s the annual publication had six offices in addition to New York headquarters, located in such sales or manufacturing centers as Boston, Chicago, and Grand Rapids. The company's Southern office was at High Point, managed by John A. Eshelman.

Eshelman, wrote J.J. Farriss in 1916:

has grown up with the furniture industry of High Point and has been identified with the "Red Book" since 1904. Although he is a young man, he is mature in his judgement, and the furniture manufacturers of the South have continually testified to their confidence in him in their loyal support of the company under his administration. He has a splendidly organized office with a competent corps of clerks, and has been a very influential factor in the phenomenal growth of the business of the High Point office in recent years.

Eshelman directed "Red Book" operations in High Point into the 1950s, by which time the book's publisher was the Lyon Furniture Merchantile Agency. The publication continues to the present day.

John A. and Helen Eshelman had this house built about 1910, and owned it the remainder of their lives. They raised three children here: Frances, John Alfred, and Helen Bonner. It was not until 1985 that the residence passed out of the Eshelman family to Pedro Manuel Silva and his wife Linda.

The Eshelman House is a good one-story Victorian example which complements the two-story Ecker House next door. Massing

and roof shapes are characteristically complex -- the hip-roofed main block sports a gabled side wing, a gabled segmental front bay, and a gabled front dormer. Two massive chimneys with corbelled brick caps pierce the front roof. A wide front porch crosses the front of the house and wraps around one side.

The house has seen a number of exterior changes over the years. Many years ago the side portion of the porch was enclosed as a sun room. The Eshelman family installed aluminum siding on the house in 1979, and possibly at the same time replaced the original wooden porch columns and railings with "wrought iron" units.

#### 1986 OWNER:

Pedro Manuel Silva & wife Linda

[since 1985: deed 3438-1152]

#### PREVIOUS OWNERS:

?/?/80-4/19/85: Helen B. Eshelman: deed 2083-418?

5/14/63 - ?/?/80: Frances Eshelman & H.: deed 2156-198

2/14/31 - 5/14/63: John A. Eshelman & wif.: deed 655-552

3/17/08 - 2/14/31: John A. Eshelman: deed 202-155

- 3/17/08: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

#### TAX NUMBER:

223-9-10

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

•Sanborn Maps: First shown in 1917: street #was 105.

•McKelden Smith (1979), p. 61.

•J.J. Farriss (1912): panoramic photo shows this block.

•J.J. Farriss (19 ): Two pages with photo on Eshelman and his Furniture Commercial Agency.

•Shipman (1983), p. 111.



Like the lots at #900 and #902, this parcel remained undeveloped until the boom years after World War II. Its first owner-occupants were Clovis D. White and his wife Charlotte, who moved in about 1949 and officially took title to the property from former owner R.E. Campbell in 1950. White, a travelling salesman, remained here until 1961. Subsequent owners include James F. Armstrong, and Stephanos and Ina Steffan.

Like its neighbors at 902 and 904, the C.D. White House is a one-story Ranch. It has a gable roof and red brick walls.

**1986 OWNER:**

Ina F. Steffan (since 1978)  
same address, 27262  
(919) 889-6575

**PREVIOUS OWNERS:**

?/?/71 - ?/?/78: Dailey, Ina Steffan:  
?/?/64 - ?/?/71: Stephanos G. Steffan:  
?/?/61 - ?/?/64: James F. Armstrong: deed 1923-420  
9/13/50 - ?/?/61: Clovis D. White & wife: deed 1347-251  
5/11/48 - 9/13/50: R.E. Campbell: deed 1222-459  
9/21/46-5/11/48: Maude Madden Thomas: deed 1132-344  
10/20/24 - 9/21/46: R.T. Amos & Charlotte : deed 465-30  
8/10/11-10/20/24: R.T. Amos: deed 230-290  
-8/10/11: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

**TAX NUMBER:**

223-10-11

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

•Sanborn maps: Land was vacant in 1917 and 1924  
•McKelden Smith (1979), p. 61.

One of the men attracted by High Point's booming economy was Robert Brockett, Sr. A native of the city of Petersburg, Virginia, (a major wholesale and trade center since Colonial days) Brockett came to High Point in 1893 to start a grocery wholesaling business. By the 1910s Robert Brockett and Sons was an important force in High Point's economy. Brockett was also active in other aspects of the city's business and political life, according to J.J. Farriss:

During the first years of his residence here Mr. Brockett built what is known as the Brockett Flats and other buildings, giving to High Point a solid block of wholesale houses, something the community never had .... In addition to these improvements he has erected other buildings, assisted in organizing banks and other institutions helpful to the community. Mr. Brockett ... in 1914 was elected a member of the General Assembly by a large majority, where he took a very high stand.

Brockett served one term in the North Carolina legislature, 1915-16, and was succeeded in office by his neighbor Carter Dalton.

Robert Brockett and his wife, Jesse, owned this residence from its construction in 1912 until the Great Depression. Among subsequent owners was H.T. Douglas in the 1950s and early 1960s, a manufacturer of woodworking tools. Robert D. Davis, Jr., who owned the dwelling in the late 1960s and early 1970s, was assistant manager of W.A. Davis Milling Company, a long-time producer of flour and corn meal. Both Davis's father and grandfather had been not only millers, but Mayors of High Point as well.

The house is a one-story Bungalow example. The hip roof has exposed rafter ends in the eaves, scalloped for decorative effect. The roof extends at the front of the house to create a full-width front porch, supported by wooden doric columns on tapered brick piers. Porch railings, possibly

original, are in keeping with the Bungalow character of the house. Windows are large double-hung units with a single pane of glass in the lower sash and as many as thirty small, square panes in the upper sash. Aluminum siding -- done in imitation of narrow weatherboarding -- is a recent addition.

#### 1986 OWNER:

Robert P. and Frances O. Cook (since 1976: deed 2844-551)  
same address, 27262

(919) 884-8189

#### PREVIOUS OWNERS:

11/24/73 - 10/15/76: Warren E. Comer: deed 2730-162

3/11/65 - 11/24/73: Robert D. Davis, Jr.: deed 2200-145

10/24/63 - 3/11/65: Lucille Alberson: deed 2133-16

- 10/24/63: H.T. Douglas & wife Cora: deed 688-173

3/12/32 - : James T. Pritchett (Danville, Va.): deed 687-587

Dan Valley Mills may have interest in lot: deed 522-422

12/23/11 - ?/?/32?: Jesse P. Brockett: deed 238-48

3/21/11 - 12/23/11: Joseph T. Best: deed 230-297

- 3/21/11: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

#### TAX NUMBER:

223-9-3

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

• Sanborn maps: First shown in 1917: street #was 107.

• McKelden Smith (1979), p. 61.

• J.J. Farriss (1912): panoramic photo shows this side of this block, and this house is not extant.

• J.J. Farriss (19 ): photo & bio of Robert Brockett, Sr.

• McPherson (1976), p. 10: mention of Robert D. Davis, Jr.

• Shipman (1983), p. 199 for photo of Davis Millin Co.

The most important residents of this house were two boys, sons of J. Royster Thurman, Jr., who lived here from 1939 to about 1951. John Royster Thurman III, who resided here during his last years of high school, became a top Army officer who led forces in Vietnam and served in the office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington, retiring in 1979 with a rank of Lieutenant General. Younger brother Maxwell Thurman, who grew up in the house from about age eight through his teens, attained even higher rank. By 1983 he was "the Army's Vice Chief of Staff, the post that makes him the Army's second-highest-ranking officer ... a four-star general, one of only twelve in the Army."

The house was built for Herman D. Sears. Sears himself was of considerable significance in High Point for he was Superintendent of the Tomlinson Chair Company, one of High Point's biggest industries. He, his wife Ethel Pickett Sears, and their three children Margaret, H. Dupuy, Jr., and Sara lived in this house from its construction until about 1923, when they moved to the Pickett family farm north of the city. Sears maintained the Johnson Street dwelling as rental property until the early 1950s. Among the tenants were the Thurman family, who had earlier rented at 1005 and 1107 Johnson Street.

In the early 1950s the Sears family sold the house. The buyer was J. Stokes Salley, Jr., High Point sales manager for Liberty Mutual Insurance. He and wife Katherine lived at this address into the 1970s.

H.D. Sears' house is an example of the businesslike Rectilinear style, a mode popular with efficiency-minded executives in the early years of the twentieth century. The house is a straightforward cube with a wide-eaved hip roof, a hip-roofed front dormer, and a one-story front porch sheltering a symmetrically centered front door. There is little decorative

trim. Eaves are plain, walls are narrow weatherboard, windows are one-over-one-pane double-hung sash. The porch has tapered square columns, and square balusters support its railings.

#### 1986 OWNER:

Thomas A. & Margaret M. Perkins  
same address, 27262  
(919) 884-5813

(since 1984: deed 3390-535)

#### PREVIOUS OWNERS:

8/20/83 - 6/27/84: Michael W. Tandy & Kim: deed 3311-258  
9/29/75-8/20/83: High Pt. Bank & Tr.: trustee: deed 2792-859  
?/?/72 - 9/29/75: Katherine H. Salley: by will  
9/27/51 - ?/?/72: J. Stokes Salley & Katherine: deed 1399-70  
- 9/27/51: H.D. Sears heirs: by will  
2/1/13 - : H.D. Sears: deed 254-329

- 2/1/13: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

#### TAX NUMBER:

223-10-14

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Sanborn maps: House first shown in 1917: street # was 108.
- McKelden Smith (1979), p. 61.
- Mrs. Katherine Spaugh, letter to Charles Navratil, July 24, 1986.
- Sara Sears (Mrs. R. S.) Caperton, letter to Charles Navratil, July 29, 1986: Only house in block in 1918 when her brother Herman D. Sears was born. Parents struck by flu epidemic that year. Sara born about 1922 here.
- Ron Thurman, letter to Charles Navratil, July 28, 1986.
- Shipman (1983), p. 210: bio of Maxwell Thurman.  
p. 184: photo of H.D. Sears, Jr., manager of his grandfather's Pickett Cotton Mills in 1983.
- Mae Bulla, letter in the files of the Johnson Street Neighborhood Assn.: "Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Hayes moved to 908 Johnson St. in 1929 with their three daughters -- Julia Hayes Mizell, Mae Hayes Bulla, Melvina Hayes Amos. The home was rented from Mr. H.D. Sears."

north corner of the dwelling. At the rear of the property is a small gabled wooden shed.

This two-story brick Georgian Revival style dwelling represents the union of two of High Point's leading families, Marsh and Peacock. It was the home for many years of furniture company president J.E. Marsh, Jr., and his wife Odelle Peacock Marsh.

J.E. Marsh, Sr., organized his Marsh Furniture Company in 1906, today one of the nation's leading makers of kitchen furniture. Dred Peacock graduated from nearby Trinity College in the late 1880s and became High Point's top lawyer. He served as judge and city councilman, managed the huge Globe Furniture Manufacturing Company for a time, and eventually won appointment as president of Greensboro College.

J.E. Marsh, Jr., married Dred Peacock's daughter Odelle and in 1926 built this house. The land was located behind the Dred Peacock residence on North Main, and also was next door to the similar-looking Johnson Street house of Odelle's brother, John R. Peacock. Young Everette Marsh, as J.E., Jr., was popularly known, rose to the presidency of Marsh Furniture. He and his wife raised two children here, James P. Marsh (a High Point civic and business leader in his own right) and Millicent Marsh Stone. J.E. Marsh, Jr., owned 909 Johnson Street all of his life. In 1982 High Point businessman Charles Navratil purchased the dwelling from Marsh's estate.

The J.E. Marsh, Jr., and John R. Peacock dwellings are quite similar. Both are 1920s red-brick Colonials with slate-covered gable roofs, end chimneys, and symmetrical five-bay front facades. Details on the Marsh House include a modillion cornice, quarter-round gable windows, common-bond brickwork, six-over-six-pane windows with wide surrounds, and a porchless front entry flanked by fluted pilasters and topped by an elaborate "broken" pediment. On each side of the house is a one-story screen porch, and there is a one-story brick addition at the rear

#### 1986 OWNER:

Charles and Barbara Navratil (since 1982: deed 3254-865)  
same address. 27262  
(919) 882-8304

#### PREVIOUS OWNERS:

?/?/82 - 12/7/82: J.E. Marsh heirs: by will  
11/8/26 - ?/?/82: J.E. Marsh & Odelle: deed 551-600  
- 11/8/26: Dred Peacock & wife Ella: deed 202-600  
5/04/08- :Ella Carr Peacock: deed 202-22  
-5/04/08: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

#### TAX NUMBER:

223-9-2

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Sanborn maps: Land was vacant in 1917 and 1924, except for wooden shed at rear of lot, straddling border with 911.
- McKelden Smith (1979), p. 61.
- J.J. Farniss (1912): panoramic photo shows this side of this block, and this house is not extant.
- McPherson (1976), pp. 19, 21, 29, 72, 110: Info on J.E. Marsh, Sr., who founded Marsh furniture in 1906.  
pp. 6, 110: photo and info on "distinguished educator: Dr. Dred Peacock, who also managed Globe Home Furniture" (now Tomlinson Chair).
- Shipman (1983), pp. 180-181: J.E. Marsh, Sr., and his Co.  
pp. 158. House photo and portrait of Judge and city councilman Dr. Dred Peacock, who lived in 1800 block of North Main. [Old # 816]
- Robert B. Rankin, letter to Charles Navratil, July 29, 1986.

#### NOTES:

Dred Peacock's North Main Street house, now demolished, is believed to have been the original Johnson farmhouse.

This lot was owned at various times in the 1910s and 1920s by T.D. Gilliam, secretary-treasurer of the Globe Parlor Furniture Company, and Nora (Charles) Pickett, member of the family which owned Pickett Mills, but neither built a house here.

In 1932 the land passed into the hands of Julia and Victor King. King, an insurance adjuster for the London Guarantee Accident Company and the Phoenix Indemnity Company, had this dwelling erected for his family.

G. Edwin Hedrick and wife Susanne purchased the residence in 1935. Hedrick was a wholesaler, associated for many years with Lexington Grocery Company. His family owned the house for more than fifty years.

The house that Julia and Victor King had constructed blends Bungalow and Colonial influences. It is a white weatherboard one-and-a-half story structure. The gable roof, wide front dormer, and full-width front porch are similar to earlier Bungalows nearby. But narrow eaves, relatively wide weatherboarding, six-over-six-pane windows, and latticework in the side of the porch mark the house as a 1930s Colonial example.

**1986 OWNER:**

Susanne Hedrick (since 1952: deed 1445-546)  
same address, 27262  
(919) 883-0955

**PREVIOUS OWNERS:**

9/16/35 - 8/14/52: G. Edwin Hedrick & wf. Susanne: deed 766-32  
5/18/32 - 9/16/35: Julia & Victor King: deed 692-454  
2/7/16 - 5/18/32: Nora C. Pickett: deed 692-452  
5/29/15 - 2/7/16: J. Gurney Briggs & wife: deed 272-352  
5/27/15 - 5/29/15: T.D. Gilliam & wife Annie: deed 272-351  
1/1/13 - 5/27/15: T.D. Gilliam: deed 254-241  
-1/1/13: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

**TAX NUMBER:**

223-10-12

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

•Sanborn Maps: Land was vacant in 1917 and 1924.  
•McKelden Smith (1979), p. 61.  
•J.J. Farriss (19 ): Page on Globe-Parlor Furniture Co., with photo of secretary-treasurer T.D. Gilliam.

This house and #909 next door were built for the children of Dred Peacock. Peacock, a distinguished High Point lawyer, educator, and businessman, lived in a North Main Street house (now demolished) and this land behind it was part of his garden for many years. In the mid 1920s he divided the garden into two building lots facing Johnson Street, one for daughter Odelle and her husband J.E. Marsh, Jr., and this one for son John.

John Peacock was well known in High Point as the head of the Jones and Peacock Insurance, which prospers to this day. He handled matters for many of the city's important residents, and visitors as well. Perhaps the best-known client among the latter was William Gould Brokaw, son of legendary railroad tycoon Jay Gould. William Gould Brokaw maintained a palatial hunting lodge south of the city from the 1890s to the 1920s. Peacock was a frequent guest and "held power of attorney to handle Brokaw's affairs in the area." In addition to Peacock's professional activities, he is remembered in High Point as a Civil War history expert of national reputation, and as a founding officer of the city's first Rotary Club in 1919. John Peacock and his wife Frances Mann Peacock raised their son John R. ("Jack") Peacock, Jr., in this house.

The dwelling remained in the Peacock family until 1985 when it was sold to Steven L. Martin. Today the two-story red-brick structure looks much as it always has. The house is set a bit further back from Johnson Street than its near-twin next door. Like the Marsh residence, the Peacock house has a gabled slate roof flanked by a pair of exterior end chimneys, with quarter-round gable windows. Unlike the Marsh house, the cornice here is boxed and decorated with small dentil molding, and brickwork is in Flemish bond with flat arches and stone keys above the first floor windows. The front entrance is

shaded by a one-bay, one-story porch, whose doric columns, dentilled cornice and pedimented roof draw from Classical sources. There is one enclosed side porch, on the north facade of the house.



**Dred Peacock**

**1986 OWNER:**

Steven L. Martin & Wendell C. (since 1985: deed 3438-2123)

**PREVIOUS OWNERS:**

?/7/1 - 4/19/85: Frances Mann Peacock: by will

?/7/1: John R. Peacock & wif. Frances: deed 551-563

title search not complete

**TAX NUMBER:**

223-9-1

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

•Sanborn maps: Land was vacant in 1917 and 1924, except for wooden shed at rear of lot straddling border of 909.

•McKelden Smith (1979), p. 61.

•J.J. Farriss (1912), p.?? : panoramic photo shows this side of this block, and this house is not extant.

•McPherson (1983), p. 40: mention of John R. Peacock, who hunted widely, and also managed the local affairs of William Gould Brokaw.

•Sizemore (1935), p. 276: Peacock a Rotary officer.

•Robert B. Rankin, letter to Charles Navratil, July 29, 1986: info on John R. Peacock.

The Idol family has been well known in High Point throughout the twentieth century. In the 1910s, writer Herbert Field recalls, the Main Street store of "V.W. Idol & Co. dealt in what was called fancy groceries. One day, while not busy, Mr. Idol said, "Herb, I can take one letter and spell the names of all the five children in our family: Verta, Vera, Victor, Virgil, Vernon." At least three of those children remained in High Point as adults. Vera became a teacher credited with starting the English Department at High Point College. Virgil became an active local financier, first with Commercial National Bank and later with Idol-Green Real Estate.

Vernon went into the textile business. By the time he and his wife Mary Reid Idol built this house, the city directory listed him as secretary of Smart Sox, Inc., a hosiery manufacturer which remains active today. The small size of this cottage is probably a reflection of the fact that the Idols built it after they had already raised their children. (The 1949 city directory showed that son Vernon W. Idol, Jr., lived nearby on Farriss Avenue. The young man was already working for the High Point Enterprise, which he would serve as business manager for more than thirty years.) The Idol family held the house until 1966 when they sold to Salley Goding, who sold it in 1973 to John D. and Hazel T. Honeycutt.

The Idols' residence is a one-and-a-half story cottage typical of post-WWII architecture. The gable roof, the symmetrical facade with gabled dormers, and the six-over-six-pane windows recall Colonial precedents. But the overall massing and proportions of the structure, its minuscule eaves, and its small gabled front porch are closer to the new Ranch style, which emerged as the dominant American house form in the 1950s. There is a gable-roofed detached garage behind the house. The dwelling has recently been sheathed with "narrow-lap" aluminum siding.

#### 1986 OWNER:

John D. & Hazel T. Honeycutt (since 1972: deed 2651-655)  
same address, 27262  
(919) 883-6203

#### PREVIOUS OWNERS:

6/15/66 - 12/19/73: Salley Goding: deed 2284-65  
- 6/15/66: Mary Reid Idol heirs: by will

?/?/59 - : Mary Reid Idol: by will

?/?/45 - ?/?/59: V.W. Idol & Mary Reid Idol:

1/22/44 - ?/?/45: R.E. Campbell: 1026-164

Chain of title not clear

5/17/12 - : Fred N. Tate: deed 254-554

-5/17/12: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

#### TAX NUMBER:

223-10-13

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

•Sanborn maps: Land was vacant in 1917 and 1924.

•McKelden Smith (1979), p. 61.

•Mary Reid Idol Williams, letter to Charles Navratil, July 24, 1986: her parents Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Idol lived ast years here.

•McPherson (1983), p. 67: V.W. Idol & Co. on Main Street.

See also p. 31 and 104 for a mention of Vera, who taught for over fifty years, starting English Dept. at High Point College. See also Shipman (1983), p. 285, for info on prominent banker V.A.J. Idol.

This house was built in 1910 for Clarence and Ida S. Dunbar. When they moved in, Mr. Dunbar was president of Dunbar-Morrison Company, a downtown clothing store. By 1917 he owned and operated High Point's Sanitary Market Grocery, located at 111 Washington Street. Mrs. Dunbar was the first woman to serve on High Point's school board, and she is remembered as a driving force behind the construction of Central High School.

In 1917 Edgar Whitener purchased the residence. He started out as a salesman at Beeson Hardware Company, then as now a High Point "institution," and eventually owned his own furniture component manufacturing company, Wilson-Whitener Knob. Edgar Whitener also served as a trustee of Catawba College. Whitener and wife Nellie were devoted to the neighborhood. Their son remembers they lived at this address some twenty-six years and raised four children here, then moved briefly to nearby Hamilton Street, and spent their last years in a small brick cottage at 900 Johnson Street.

From 1944 to 1969, 1001 Johnson Street was the property of Mrs. Carey O. Jones, widow of High Point real estate man W.C. Jones. From 1969 until 1986 the house was the domain of Mrs. Nettie Spear Wiseman (later Nettie Vestal), a Yadkin County native who came to High Point in 1936. In 1987 new owners made plans to renovate the structure as a "bed-and-breakfast" establishment catering to High Point visitors.

The handsomely ornamented two-story frame dwelling commands a prominent corner location near the middle of the Johnson Street District. The house's basic form is that of the Four Square variant of the Rectilinear style. The main block is a cube with a hip roof, a hip-roofed front dormer, a wide front porch, and an asymmetrically placed front entrance.

But rather than adopting the simple decoration characteristic of the Rectilinear, the designer of this house mixed Victorian,

Colonial and even Bungalow motifs. Eaves have chunky modillion brackets, and the interior chimneys have corbelled caps. Upper sash in the windows boast a mixture of diamond-shaped panes. The wrap-around porch features paired doric columns on brick piers, with a gabled extension over the main entry. The front door has sidelights and a transom.

At the rear of the house are several two-story wings, some of which are probably original, while others are additions which take care to continue earlier window and wall treatments. The most recent addition -- at the northwest corner -- was completed in 1987.

#### 1986 OWNER:

Alan Ferguson (since 1986)  
same address, 27262  
(919) 884-5751

#### PREVIOUS OWNERS:

8/21/73 - ?/?/86: Nettie Spear Vestal: deed 2720 - 599  
6/18/69 - 8/21/73: George L. Wiseman: deed 2429-724  
2/2/44 - 6/18/69: Carey O. Jones: deed 1027-578  
1/14/32 - 2/2/44: Mrs. Nellie L. Whitener: deed 684-323  
5/5/17 - 1/14/32: Edgar Whitener: deed 295-247  
2/1/09 - 5/5/17: Ida S. Dunbar: deed 210-68  
- 2/1/09: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

#### TAX NUMBER:

223-5-7

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Sanborn maps: First shown in 1917; street # was 201.
- McKelden Smith (1979), p. 61.
- J.J. Farriss (1912). p.?? : panoramic photo shows this house.
- James E. Whitener, letter to Charles Navratil, July 28, 1986: His father Edgar Whitener moved the family to this house in 1918. "Some of the best-known families of High Point lived on Johnson Street - R.O. Lindsay, Marsh, Peacock, Hall, Hedrick, Dalton, Briggs, and so on and on."
- Ruth A. Briles, letter to Charles Navratil, July 28, 1986: .
- Aubrey W. Dunbar, letter to Charles Navratil, August 12, 1986: His family lived at #1001 for 3-4 years 1912-16, then moved around corner onto Farriss Av.
- High Point Enterprise, July 27, 1986: obit of Nettie Spear Wiseman Vestal, who owned and operated a boarding house for 50 years.[not on this site]



In its three-quarters of a century, this spacious residence has been home to two of High Point's most influential families, the Lindsays and the Rawleys.

R. Odell Lindsay came to High Point in the 1900s at the behest of hosiery pioneer J.H. Millis. Millis was ready to add another factory to his successful High Point Hosiery Mill, and he wanted Lindsay to manage this new venture, Consolidated Hosiery Mills. Over the following decades Lindsay won respect for his managerial expertise. When several High Point area plants merged in 1927 to form the giant Adams-Millis Corporation, Lindsay became vice president of the new firm. He also started his own Guilford Hosiery Mills about the same time. In civic affairs Lindsay is remembered for his role in the founding of Burrus Memorial Hospital, a 1933 predecessor to today's High Point Memorial Hospital.

R.O. Lindsay built this house the year of his wedding. Mrs. Lindsay had been among High Point's earliest businesswomen, secretary to the President of Commercial National Bank until she married. The couple raised daughter Frances and son R. Odell, Jr. here. The younger R.O. Lindsay flew with the celebrated "Flying Tigers" air squadron over Germany in World War II. R.O. Lindsay, Sr., lived in the house until his death in 1942. The family held this property until 1946 when they sold to J. W. Austin.

In 1947 David A. Rawley purchased the house. Rawley's father J.P. Rawley had joined with other leading citizens in 1915 to purchase the town's newspaper from its long-time editor J.J. Farriss. In the late 1930s David took over from his father as publisher of the daily, along with partner Randall B. Terry, Jr. David Rawley directed the Enterprise for most of the years 1947-1960 he owned this dwelling. Like other Johnson Street residents he also led in community affairs, serving for instance, as president of

the High Point Chamber of Commerce in 1957.

Today his sons, raised in the house, continue in the newspaper business. Elder son David A. Rawley, Jr., is president of the Burlington Times-News Company, while younger son Joseph P. Rawley guides the Enterprise. The house passed out of family hands for several years in the 1960s, but in 1968 Joseph P. Rawley repurchased the dwelling and now makes his home here along with his wife Glenda.

( -- continued)

The house itself is one of Johnson Street's largest and most elegant, as befits the importance of the families that have owned it. It faces Johnson Street, with a broad side yard (actually a separate lot owned by the Rawley family) overlooking Louise Avenue.

The dwelling's exterior blends Colonial Revival, Victorian, and Rectilinear architectural influences. In massing it is a hip-roofed two-story rectangular block, enlivened only by a projecting segmental bay on the south side. Second-story walls are sheathed in wood shingles, while the first story is covered with molded weatherboard. Windows are large one-over-one-pane double-hung units. Gabled front dormers have heavy pediments and diamond-shaped window panes. The eaves of the main roof have modillion brackets, a motif that is echoed in the one-story porch which wraps around the front and south side of the structure. The porch has paired doric columns and a gabled front entry, and it still retains its original balustrade. The front door has sidelights and a rectangular transom. The interior was decorated by Florida designer Gustav Jensen in 1929.

Behind the main house is a detached garage and apartment built in 1947.

**1986 OWNER:**

Joseph P. & Glenda H. Rawley  
same address, 27262

(deed 2417-778)

**PREVIOUS OWNERS:**

12/20/69-12/19/77: Arthur B. Horton & wife: deed 2360-184

12/28/64-12/20/69: Life Ins.Co.of Carolina: deed 2195-447

[name was Founders Life Assurance of Carolina til 1967]

8/17/60 - 12/28/64: Market City Invest.Inc.: deed 1941-383

2/20/47 - 8/17/60: D.A. Rawley & wife Sarah: deed 1160-189

2/25/46 - 2/20/47: John W. Austin & wife: deed 1104-41

6/28/11 - 2/25/46: R.O. Lindsay: deed 230-600

- 6/28/11: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

**TAX NUMBER:**

223-6-9

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

• Sanborn maps: First shown in 1917: street # was 204.

• McKelden Smith, p. 61.

• Shipman(1983),pp. 186-87: two pages on Adams-Millis and predecessor High Point Hosiery: "R.O. Lindsay was the manager of Consolidated Mills."

pp. 202-03: two pages on Enterprise newspaper..

• J.J. Farriss (19 ): photos of Lindsay and his house, also a blurb on High Point Hosiery mentions him as manager of Consolidated.

• Robert B. Rankin, letter to Charles Navratil, July 29, 1986:

"R.Odeli Lindsay -- principal owner Triangle Hosiery Mill and started Lindsay Farm." [Lindale Farm & Creamery]

• McPherson (1976), p. 88: R.O. Lindsay & Burrus Memorial p. 44. D.A. Rawley president of Chamber of Commerce 1957.

p. 38. History of Enterprise : founded 1905 by J.J. Farriss, purchased 1915 by J.P. Rawley and partners, purchased by present owners Rawley and R.B. Terry in 1921. Also publishes Thomasville Times.

(1000 Johnson Street

Vacant lot]

**1986 OWNER:**

Joseph P. & Glenda H. Rawley (since 1969)

1002 Johnson Street, High Point, 27262

**TAX NUMBER:**

223-6-8

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

• Sanborn Maps: Land was vacant in 1917 and 1924.

The Briggs family owned this house for four decades. Here was raised John G. Briggs, Jr., nationally-known author, editor, and New York Times music critic.

J.G. Briggs, Jr., descended from one of High Point's pioneer furniture families. Grandfather Alpheus Briggs helped start a buggy manufacturing operation in 1881 in Florence, just outside High Point, which grew into furniture maker Briggs Manufacturing. Alpheus Briggs' youngest son John Gurney Briggs, Sr., chose not to enter the furniture business, but instead went to work managing the insurance department of the High Point branch of Wachovia Bank and Trust. About the time he built this house in 1920 he joined Beeson Hardware Company as a bookkeeper. By the 1950s he was office manager at Beeson, and also president-treasurer of United Holding Company, vice president of High Point Mortgage and Investment Company, and vice president of Wayne Trademark Company.

Briggs' son John, Jr., spent the majority of his boyhood years here, before the family moved next door to 1005 in 1928 and rented this house to tenants. In 1932 young Briggs went off to college at UNC Chapel Hill, then to the Curtis Institute of Music in New York City. By 1940 he was music editor of the New York Post. He stayed with the newspaper until 1949 when he assumed editorship of Etude Magazine, the leading classical music publication of its era. In 1952 Briggs became music critic for the New York Times, a post which he held until 1960. He is the author of four books, including a biography of conductor Leonard Bernstein, and a history of the Metropolitan Opera House.

The Briggs family maintained this house as rental property until 1960. Among the tenants was Mary Sue Briggs Short, John Briggs, Jr.'s sister. In 1960 High Point Judge Don C. MacCrae purchased the house and held it until 1963. Subsequent owners

have included Mary Haralson, Thurman Ward, and Arthur Green.

The Briggs' residence is a modest one-story brick Bungalow. A gable roof covers the rectangular main block, and a wide secondary gable covers the front porch. Eaves are supported by stick-like brackets, and the front gable is sheathed in wood shingles. Note the square tapered wooden porch columns on brick piers, and the wide balusters in the porch railing.

#### 1986 OWNER:

Arthur J. Green, Jr., & wif. Ellen (since 1983: deed 3311-389) same address. 27262

#### PREVIOUS OWNERS:

6/20/64 - 8/30/83: Thurman M. Ward: deed 2175-270  
 10/11/63 - 6/20/64: Mary C. Haralson: deed 2138-568  
 9/25/60 - 10/11/63: D.C. Macrae: deed 1920-207  
 5/15/58 - 9/25/60: J. G. Briggs & wife Thelma: deed 1768-368  
 5/15/58 - 5/15/58: E. Leroy Briggs, Sr., & wif. deed 1768-367  
 5/14/54 - 5/15/58: J. G. Briggs & wife Thelma: deed 1550-631  
 3/3/43 - 5/14/54: J. Gurney Briggs: deed 1004-167  
 3/10/33 - 3/3/43: Equitable Life Assurance: deed 708-48  
 2/12/30 - 3/10/33: V.A.J. Idol, trustee: deed 638-334  
 Chain of title not clear for 1920s  
 12/8/21 - 12/8/26: W.G. Burnett & wife: deed 230-566  
 2/23/20 - 9/2/20: A. Sherrod: deed 216-485  
 - 2/23/20: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

#### TAX NUMBER:

223-5-6

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Sanborn maps: Land was vacant in 1917; house first shown 1924: street number was 203.
- McKelden Smith, p. 61.
- John G. Briggs, Jr., letter to Charles Navratil, July 23, 1986: His early childhood home here until 1928 when family moved to 1005. [parents earlier lived in Zollicoffer House and father later lived in Rev. Samuel Taylor House, all on Johnson St.]
- Mary Sue Briggs Short, letter to Charles Navratil, July 1986: She was born in this house in 1920, lived here four years as a girl, then returned for three years starting in 1946 as a young wife and mother. Memories of Ray Street School.
- McPherson, p. 109: one of pioneer manufacturers in region was Briggs family's 1881 buggy shop in Florence, reorganized 1901 in High Point as High Point Buggy Co. Reorganized 1927 to manufacture furniture as Briggs Manufacturing Co.

Like a number of other Johnson Street lots, this property was owned throughout the 1910s and early 1920s by a prominent High Point business leader who never found time to have a house built. H. Frank Hunsucker, who held this particular piece of vacant land, was the busy founder of Highland Yarn Mills, the city's first large cotton spinning facility.

In 1924 Hunsucker finally sold the plot to Alpheus Idol (a relative of Vernon Idol at #912), a grocer with a store at 1641 North Main Street. Alpheus Idol also had a building and contracting business, but maintained his store all his life. His daughter Madge married a grocer as well, William J. Abernethy who managed the Big Star Grocery on South Main Street. She inherited the family home on Johnson Street in 1945, and in 1986 Madge Idol Abernethy still owned this house.

The Adolphus Idol House looks today almost exactly as it did in 1925. It is a large red brick Rectilinear style example, two stories tall with a hip roof and a symmetrical front facade. Trim is characteristically plain. A small semi-circular vent pops out of the front center of the roof, eaves are unembellished, brick is laid in common bond, and windows are six-over-six units. The one-story front porch has square brick columns at its corners, and short brick piers define its center entrance. Diamond-shaped decorations highlight the porch cornice. The floor and balustrade of the porch extend south of the main facade, forming a small terrace in front of a one-story side wing. On the north side of the house is a wide pergola-like "porte cochere" over the driveway.

Behind the house is a one-story hip-roofed garage, constructed of brick, which still retains its original hinged wooden doors.

**1986 OWNER:**

Madge Idol Abernethy  
same address, 27262  
(919) 883-9528

(since 1945: by will)

**PREVIOUS OWNERS:**

5/28/24 - 2/2/45: A.H. Idol & wife S.L.: deed 453-383

Chain of title not clear

12/17/10 - : H.F. Hunsucker: deed 230-124

- 12/17/10: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

**TAX NUMBER:**

223-6-10

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

- Sanborn maps: Land was vacant in 1917 and 1924.
- McKelden Smith, p. 61.
- Shipman (1983), p. 193: H. Frank Hunsucker founded Highland Yarn Mills in 1913, firm still in family in 1983.

This dwelling briefly held three of Johnson Street's most prominent sons. John G. Briggs, Jr., remembers living here with his parents while he was in high school 1928-1932. He went on to a career as an editor, author and music critic with the New York Post, Etude Magazine, and the New York Times. Later, brothers Maxwell Thurman and John R. Thurman III resided here 1937-1939 before their family purchased a house at 908 Johnson Street. Both young men became high-ranking generals in the United States Army.

The house was actually erected in 1923 as a rental dwelling, a fairly common practice in suburbs of this period. Its owner was Alice Charles, wife of Commercial National Bank officer R.C. Charles. The Charleses bought up a number of lots on Johnson Street in the early 1910s for speculative purposes, holding them til demand for the area increased, then selling them at a profit.

Five years after the house was built, salesman J. G. Briggs, Sr., and his family became the first owner-occupants. They kept the house as rental property after they moved out in 1932, despite almost losing it in the Great Depression. It was Briggs who rented to the Thurman family in the late 1930s. A subsequent tenant was Rev. S. W. Taylor. Taylor lived in the house from about 1939 to 1943, during which time he was "the first District Superintendent of the High Point District under the union of the three branches of Methodism."

In 1943 dentist W. Roy McKaughan, Sr., and his wife Grace bought the dwelling and lived there for more than three decades. Today the house is rented once more, under the ownership of McKaughan's son.

The house at 1005 Johnson Street is a one-and-a-half-story Bungalow style dwelling constructed of wood and brick. Its main gable roof has a gabled north side bay. Upper walls

are woodshingled, with brackets in the eaves, while lower walls are brick (now painted). The full-width hip-roofed front porch has square wooden columns on brick piers.

#### 1986 OWNER:

W. Roy McKaughan, Jr. (since 1976: deed 2803-931)  
306 Massingale Rd., Columbia, S.C. 29210  
(803) 772-2483

#### PREVIOUS OWNERS:

2/20/73 - 3/24/76: Grace H. McKaughan: by will  
2/20/43 - 2/20/73: W.R. McKaughan & wife: deed 1042-316  
3/30/33 - 2/20/43: Equitable Life Assurance: deed 708-490  
7/29/29 - 3/30/33: V.A.J. Idol, trustee: deed 636-243  
5/17/26 - 7/29/29: J. Gurney Briggs: deed 514-632  
7/7/12 - 5/17/26: Alice N. Charles: by will  
6/15/10 - 7/7/12: R. C. Charles: deed 254-158  
- 6/15/10: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

#### TAX NUMBER:

223-5-5

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Sanborn maps: Land was vacant in 1917; house first appeared 1924; street number was 205.
- McKelden Smith, p. 61.
- J.J. Farriss (19 ): two pages on Commercial National Bank, with photo of cashier R.C. Charles.
- John G. Briggs, letter to Charles Navratil, July 23, 1986: He lived here 1928-32 before going on to career as music writer.
- Roy Thurman, letter to Charles Navratil, July 28, 1986: Rose Moran and John Royster Thurman, Jr., lived here with sons John R. III and Maxwell R. from 1937 to 1939. They earlier lived in apartments in the 1200 block and 1100 block, and subsequently in the house at 908 Johnson Street.
- Robert B. Rankin, letter to Charles Navratil, July 29, 1986: Thurman was a salesman by trade. His son Royster, Jr. attained U.S. Army rank of three stars, and his other son Maxwell is a full four star general and is the second highest officer in the U.S. Army today.
- Robert Davis, letter to Charles Navratil, July 29, 1986: His father-in-law was Rev. S.W. Taylor.

#### NOTE:

For Briggs see also # 1003, for Thurman see also # 908.

D. L. Bouldin and his wife had this house built about 1923 and lived here til 1940. David Lee Bouldin worked as a travelling salesman and later sold real estate. His wife Estelle was the daughter of John Korner of nearby Kernersville, North Carolina, and a relative of wealthy artist Jules Korner who built the landmark "Korner's Folly" mansion there. Trained at Kernersville Academy and Guilford College, Estelle taught school as a young woman and became an active member of several High Point women's clubs.

In June of 1940 J. Carey Payne and his wife Stella bought the residence. Mr. Payne served as High Point's Assistant Postmaster in the 1940s, then took a position as secretary-treasurer of Hiatt Tire Company, a local retail establishment. His daughter Celeste Payne Corum, bookkeeper for Hiatt Tire, owns the house today.

This substantial two-story residence is built of red brick in the Rectilinear style. Like its Rectilinear neighbor at 1004, it has a plain-eaved hip roof and a wide one-story front porch. Detailing here, though, is more delicate than next door. The roof has a front dormer and a pair of chimneys with corbelled banding. Exterior brick is laid in Flemish bond, with dark headers. The brick balustrade wall of the porch has a rough-edged stone coping. The porch roof -- supported by well-proportioned paired square wooden columns -- extends to the north to shelter the two-car driveway.

At the rear of the house is a detached garage. One of the largest such structures on Johnson Street, it is one-and-a-half stories tall with a dormered gable roof, brick walls, and space for three autos.

**1986 OWNER:**

Celeste P. Corum (since 1960: deed 1923-61)  
same address, 27262  
(919)886-5235

**PREVIOUS OWNERS:**

6/18/40 - 11/7/60: J.C. Payne & wife Stella: deed 920-512  
2/1/21 - 6/18/40: D.L. Bouldin: deed 353-494  
1/8/12 - 2/1/21: W.F. Clayton & wife Ethel: deed 236-679  
- 1/8/12: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

**TAX NUMBER:**

223-6-11

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

- Sanborn maps: Land was vacant in 1917, house first appeared 1924: street number was 206.
- McKelden Smith, p. 61.
- High Point Enterprise, August 6, 1986. Obituary of Estelle G. Korner Bouldin.
- Sydney Nathans, The Quest for Progress: The Way We Lived in North Carolina, 1870-1920 (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 1983), pp. 55-58 shows Victorian mansion built at Kernersville by wealthy artist Jules Korner in 1880.

Robert Walker, first owner of this house, was associated with Pickett Cotton Mills, High Point's most important industry outside the furniture and hosiery fields. F. M. Pickett of High Point founded the textile concern in 1910, with financial assistance from the state's prosperous Reynolds and Duke tobacco families. The mill wove cotton print cloth, and by the 1920s it employed more than 200 High Point citizens. Young Walker married Blanche Pickett and rose to become Pickett Mills' secretary -- manager of the factory -- during the early 1920s when he lived on Johnson Street.

From 1925 to 1935 Charles M. Kephart owned the house with his wife Louise. Kephart is remembered as one of High Point's early automobile dealers, handling Dodge cars and trucks. When he lived here he was president of a real estate firm with the delightful name "Own-a-Home," which developed suburban property in the northeast part of the city.

Later owners included R.A. Siceloff, co-owner of Siceloff Ice and Coal, and Maude Ray Reynolds, an officer of the Hood System Industrial Bank (later Central State Bank) in downtown High Point.

This is a straightforward example of the Bungalow style, one-and-a-half stories tall with a gable roof. Eaves have stick-like brackets, and there is large gabled front dormer. The roof extends to form a full-width front porch with square pier-and-column supports. First-story walls are brick, and there is a brick exterior chimney on the north side which features corbelled banding. Except for aluminum siding on its gables and dormers, and a rear dormer which may be an addition, the exterior of the house is preserved in good original condition. Behind the house is a small two-story garage structure.

**1986 OWNER:**

Rupert Eugene Wall & wife Eleanor  
same address, 27262 (since 1976: deed 2813-655)

**PREVIOUS OWNERS:**

2/21/68 - 6/27/76: C.L. Michael: deed 2363-345  
12/18/42-2/21/68: M. Ray Reynolds: deed 977-62  
10/10/35 - 12/18/42: R.A. Siceloff: deed 780-470  
10/1/25-10/10/35: Charles M. Kephart & wife: deed 500-173  
10/7/20 - 10/1/25: Robert H. Walker: deed 345-61  
6/11/19 - 10/7/20: High Point Inv. & Real Est.: deed 327-266  
6/11/19 - 6/11/19: Greensboro Coll. for Women: deed 295-135  
2/5/14 - 6/11/19: A. Sherrod: deed 276-653  
6/15/10 - 2/5/14: R.C. Charles: deed 254-158  
- 6/15/10: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

**TAX NUMBER:**

223-5-4

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

- Sanborn maps: Land was vacant in 1917, house first appeared 1924: street number was 207.
- McKelden Smith, p. 61.
- McPherson (1976), p. 49: Charles M. Kephart.
- Shipman (1983), p. 185: Pickett Mills.
- Sara Wilson Jones interview: R.H. Walker's wife Blanche was sister of Mrs. H.D. Sears, another Johnson Street resident. The pair were daughters of noted textile family Mr. Francis M. Pickett & wife Nora (Charles) Pickett.

**NOTE:**

Commercial National Bank Cashier R.C. Charles also owned lot next door at #1005 in early 1910s.

This large, handsome dwelling was built for W.G. Burnett, secretary-treasurer of High Point Ice and Coal, then purchased in 1916 by Dr. H. W. McCain, a prominent physician. Before McCain and his wife took up residence the house was rented briefly to Harry Raymond, one of the city's leading merchandisers of the exotic wood veneers used in furniture construction.

Dr. McCain, a Union County native trained in Chapel Hill and Philadelphia, came to High Point in the boom years of the 1900s. He is remembered as a stockholder in the city's first hospital, which was owned and operated by a group of local doctors.

The doctor and his wife Alma Cunningham McCain reared one daughter, Alma Virginia, in the house. The dwelling remained in the McCain family for many years, until 1952. It was purchased by Ada Hedrick, widow of John W. Hedrick, the High Point mayor (1921-1925) who was instrumental in the establishment of High Point College. Hedrick and her daughter Margaret Oldham owned the house for more than three decades, selling in 1984 to Basil Lee Hodge, Jr.

Architecturally, this prominently-sited corner house is one of the landmarks of Johnson Street. It is a rambling two-story wood and shingle exercise in the rustic Craftsman style. The jumble of hip roofs feature wide eaves and tall chimneys with corbelled caps. Second-story walls are sheathed in wood shingles, with a pair of stucco panels on one front bay for a simple decorative effect. First story walls have narrow weatherboarding. Windows are large double-hung units, grouped irregularly in ones, twos and threes. Their upper sash are divided into numerous small square panes.

The major exterior feature of the house is the spacious one story front porch, which is generous in size even by the standards of its day. It has brick columns with wood and stucco decorative panels, and a balustrade of

wide slats. The porch wraps around both sides of the house. On the south it is glassed in to create a sun porch, evidently an original feature.



W. G. BURNETT

#### 1986 OWNER:

Basil Lee Hodge, Jr. (since 1984: deed 3417-300)  
506 Steele Street, High Point 27262

#### PREVIOUS OWNERS:

- 11/8/84: Margaret Hedrick Oldham: deed 3417-298  
10/11/52 - : Ada R. Hedrick: deed 1456-288  
- 10/11/52: Mrs. H.W. McCain: by will  
12/8/16 - : Dr. H.W. McCain: deed 293-194  
12/8/11 - 12/8/16: W.G. Burnett & wife: deed 230-566  
- 12/8/11: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

#### TAX NUMBER:

223-6-1

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Sanborn maps: First shown in 1917: street # was 214.
- McKelden Smith, p. 61.
- J.J. Farriss (1912): photo shows house. Also page on High Point Ice & Fuel Co. has photo and bio of secretary W.G. Burnett.
- Margaret Oldham, letter to Charles Navratil, 1986: "My mother, Mrs. John Hedrick, bought our home at 1008 Johnson Street in 1949, and we lived there until after her death in 1984. My children grew up there."
- J.J. Farriss (1916?): page with photo of Harry Raymond.
- J.J. Farriss (19 ): page with photo of physician H.W. McCain, who "has been practicing medicine in High Point for five years and has been very successful, indeed." See also Shipman (1983), p.164.
- McPherson (1976), pp.87-88: McCain hospital stockholder.  
pp. 102,104: John W. Hedrick was mayor in the early 1920s, and was on first Board of Trustees of High Point College.
- Sizemore(1947), p. 74: John W. Hedrick mayor 1921-1925.



**(1009 Johnson Street C.B. Vestal House 1912 demolished 1982)**

The Johnson Street Historic District is remarkable for the high survival rate of its houses. This parking lot is the site of the only dwelling ever demolished within what is now the Historic District.

It was built in the early 1910s for Claude B. Vestal, secretary-treasurer of the Samuel B. Coffin Company, a small High Point furniture manufacturer. Later long-time owner-occupants were R.A. and Nell Sicheloff, who made their home here for fifty-five years. Mr. Sicheloff operated Sicheloff Ice and Coal Company. The house fell to the bulldozer in 1982 and the site is now used for parking for the Davis Funeral Home on North Main Street.

**1986 OWNER:**

Harold C. Davis  
1108 N. Main Street, High Point. 27262  
(919) 885-5049

**PREVIOUS OWNERS:**

Chain of title not complete. City directories show that Vestal lived here during 1910s, and that R.A. Sicheloff had moved in by 1922.

4/23/12- : C.B. Vestal; deed 236-197

-4/23/12: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

**TAX NUMBER:**

223-5-3

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

- Sanborn maps: house first shown in 1917; street # was 209.
- McKelden Smith (1979), p. 61.
- Mrs. R.A. (Nell) Sicheloff, letter to Charles Navratil, July 22, 1986: she lived at 1009 for 55 years.

This dwelling was for many years the home of lawyer, furniture executive, and North Carolina legislator Carter Dalton, a distinguished member of one of High Point's most prominent families.

The earliest member of the Dalton clan to appear in High Point history books is Rev. P. H. Dalton. He founded the First Presbyterian Church in 1859, the same year the city was incorporated, and served as its much-loved pastor nearly all his life. His son R.F. Dalton played an important role in creation of High Point's furniture industry. In 1886 R.F. Dalton became a partner of E.A. Snow, the city's very first manufacturer, and when Snow Lumber Company was incorporated in 1888 Dalton was its president. R.F. Dalton helped found many of the city's subsequent furniture concerns, including Southern Chair, Home Furniture, and Eagle Furniture.

Carter Dalton, born in 1884, was R.F. Dalton's son. He studied law, then returned to High Point to practice in 1913. He purchased this lot in August of that year, and on October 8th he married Mary Drew Land. The couple built this handsome house and resided here almost forty years. During that time Carter Dalton became "a well-respected lawyer with the firm of Peacock and Dalton. In 1915 he was chosen Judge of the Municipal Court." It was but the beginning of a busy career as a civic leader and businessman.

In 1916 Carter Dalton won election to the North Carolina General Assembly, where he served through 1918. Dalton helped found High Point's Rotary Club in 1919 and served as its first president. He was president of the Chamber of Commerce in 1925, and headed the College Development Corporation which assembled and donated the land for High Point College. He also pursued a variety of business interests, serving as secretary-treasurer of Wexler Land Company in the late 1910s and as president of the Building Investment Company in the 1930s.

By 1931 Carter Dalton was vice president and general counsel for Snow Lumber Company, and in 1941 he became majority stockholder. Carter Dalton sold his interest to Hunter Dalton in 1944, and the Dalton family continues to control Snow Lumber to this day.

The house was sold in 1951 and owned briefly by James W. Trew and Harris N. Bell before being purchased in 1956 by Robert B. Cameron, a manufacturers' agent. Cameron and his wife Pauline lived here nearly thirty years, and raised children Judy Cameron Sherman, United States Navy Commander Robert B. Cameron, and Virginia Tech theatre professor Ben Cameron. Don and Joyce Tickle bought the dwelling in 1984.

( -- continued)



Carter Dalton

The Dalton House is located on a large corner lot near the heart of the Historic District. The house is sited toward the street intersection, leaving room for a generous side yard and a carriage house that matches the main dwelling.

In architecture the Dalton House shows influence of the Bungalow and Craftsman styles. It is a two-story structure with two main wings arranged to form an "L," and a small one-story rear wing. There are three stone chimneys. The gable roofs feature wide eaves that are carried on heavy square-hewn brackets. Upper walls are wood shingled, with weatherboarding on the first story. The double-hung windows have small square upper panes, and wide plain surrounds. There is a gabled front porch whose chunky square columns, sheathed in shingles, which rest on stone piers. The main entrance is through a smaller porch, also with stone trim, which is nestled at the crook of the "L."

The carriage house, a two-story affair with a bracketed gable roof, a wood-shingled upper story, and a weatherboarded lower story, stands at the rear of the lot.

#### 1986 OWNER:

Don O. & Joyce B. Tickle (since 1984: deed 3415-1535)  
P.O. Box 4504, High Point, 27262  
(919) 889-2590

#### PREVIOUS OWNERS:

- 10/30/84: Pauline Brown Cameron: by will  
5/30/56 - Robert B. Cameron: deed 1671-643  
12/18/53 - 5/30/56: Harris Bell & w/ Mary Trew: deed 1522-1  
6/9/51 - 12/18/53: James W. Trew & wif. Ethel: deed 1386-643  
6/18/32 - 6/9/51: Mary Drew Dalton: deed 694-148 & 149  
8/2/13 - 6/18/32: Carter Dalton: deed 252-589  
6/8/13 - 8/2/13: R.F. Dalton: deed 252-258  
4/4/10 - 6/8/13: D.H. Hall: deed 216-651  
- 4/4/10: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

#### TAX NUMBER:

223-5-1

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Sanborn maps: First shown in 1917: street number was 212 (same number in 1924).
- McKelden Smith (1979), p. 61.
- Ben Cameron, undated letter in the files of the Johnson Street Neighborhood Association: he moved here at age two. Now teaches theater at VPI, Blacksburg, Va.
- J.J. Farriss (19 ): photo and bio of D.H. Hall, "decorator, plasterer, and road builder."
- J.J. Farriss (19 ): two pages on Snow Lumber with photo of president R.F. Dalton, son of Rev P.H. Dalton.
- J.J. Farriss (19 ): bio and photo of Carter Dalton, who married Mary Drew Land October 8, 1913.
- Shipman (1983), p. 156: photos of Carter Dalton & his house.  
p. 169: two pages on pioneer High Point furniture maker Snow Lumber Company. Daltons still ran firm in 1983.
- McPherson (1976): p.31,38( Carter Dalton stockholder in Enterprise, 1920),44 (Carter Dalton President Chamber of Commerce, 1925),88-89 (Carter Dalton incorporating trustee of Burrus Memorial Hospital, 1933, and later chairman of trustees),104 (Carter Dalton headed College Development Corporation which assembled and donated the land for High Point College in early 1920s), 109-110 (Dalton family's activities in furniture industry).
- Sizemore (1935), pp. 105, 147-151, 276: Dalton family.
- Robert B. Rankin, letter to Charles Navratil, July 29, 1986: Carter Dalton was 1st Pres. of High Pt. Rotary.
- J.L.Cheney, NC Government, 1585-1979 (1981), p. 494, lists Dalton in legislature.
- Capus Waynick, High Point Enterprise editor, tribute to Dalton upon Dalton's death.

Young lawyer Charles C. Barnhart moved into this house in 1913 soon after his marriage to his wife Mayme. The young couple raised two sons and a daughter there - Ralph, Carroll and Evelyn. Charles Barnhart was a leading attorney in High Point for more than two decades, until the family moved to Greensboro about 1935. Subsequent owners of the house have included Rosa Bell Rogers, the Lebanon Methodist Church, the Darius Burroughs family, and Carl and Mary Hill.

The Barnhart house is sited on a prominent corner in the heart of the Johnson Place neighborhood. Architecturally, the dwelling is a good example of the Four Square residential style, popular through the United States from the 1900s into the 1920s. It is two stories tall with a wide-eaved hip roof. Second-story walls are wood shingled, while the first story has narrow weatherboarding. Windows are one-over-one-pane units, except for one oval Colonial Revival style front window. The broad one-story porch, which wraps around the front and side of the house, boasts square wooden columns, a wooden balustrade, and a shed-and-gable roof. The porch was a cool and shady place for children to play or parents to visit in the hot summer days before the advent of air conditioning.

Behind the house is a one-and-a-half story weatherboard-covered garage, which appears to date from the same period as the main house.

**1986 OWNER:**

Carl B. & Mary R. Hill  
Same address, 27262  
(919) 882-4041

(since 1969: deed 2450-90)

**PREVIOUS OWNERS:**

?/?/66 - 9/11/69: Bertha Simmons Burroughs: by will  
?/?/65 - ?/?/66: Darius Burroughs heirs: by will  
12/23/58 - ?/?/65: Darius Burroughs: 1807-94  
12/14/42 - 12/23/58: Lebanon Methodist Church: 1000-266  
?/?/41 - 12/14/42: Rosa Bell Rogers:  
3/3/38-?/?/41: R.P. Jones & wife Dollie: deed 838-19  
8/10/11 - 3/3/38: C.C. Barnhart: deed 230-300  
- 8/10/11: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

**TAX NUMBER:**

223-2-12

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

- Sanborn maps: First shown in 1917: street # was 300.
- McKelden Smith, p. 61.
- Evelyn B. Mitchell, letter to Charles Navratil, July 30, 1986: Her parents Charles C. and Mayme[Plunkett]Barnhart built house and moved in after 1913 marriage. Evelyn and older brothers Carroll and Ralph were born there. Charles "practiced law with Colonel Wescott Roberson for a time." Family moved to Greensboro 1935. Good memories of childhood on street.
- Ralph W. Barnhart, letter to Charles Navratil, August 11, 1986. Father was "a practicing attorney in High Point for many years." Three children: Ralph, Carroll, and Evelyn.

This handsome corner dwelling has been in the same family since its construction about 1924. It was built for Dr. Albert Carl Jones, High Point's leading veterinary surgeon for more than fifty years.

Like many of his neighbors, Dr. Jones took an active interest in civic affairs. He served on the board of directors of High Point's first Chamber of Commerce in 1919. Jones and his fellow board members not only started the Chamber, an important force in the city's economic life to this day, but they also laid plans for the Southern Furniture Exposition Building. When it opened in 1921, the Exposition Building made High Point the Southern headquarters of the American furniture industry.

Five Jones children grew up in the house on Johnson Street. Ownership of the dwelling passed to Dr. Jones' widow Alleen White Jones in 1969, and subsequently to the couple's children. Today daughter Sarah Wilson Jones, a retired University of North Carolina at Greenboro faculty member, lives here.

The Jones House is a well-preserved example of the Dutch Colonial architectural style. It is one-and-a-half stories tall with a barn-like gambrel roof and full-length front and rear dormers. The roof is covered in slate -- a rarity on Johnson Street -- and walls are sheathed with wide weatherboards. Windows are nine-over-nine-pane double-hung sash, usually arranged in pairs. There is a one-story enclosed sunporch on the south side of the house. The front facade is symmetrical with a fan-lit front entrance at the center. Its highlight is a delicate little porch which has paired slender columns and an arch-and-gable roof.

To the rear of the residence is a matching garage with a hip roof, wide weatherboarding, and a delicate trellis. It retains its original wooden doors and slate roof.



**Dr. A.C. Jones**

**1986 OWNER:**

Sarah Wilson Jones (since 1978: deed 2945-540)  
same address, 27262

**PREVIOUS OWNERS:**

?/?/77 - 6/10/78: S.Jones,H.Herndon,C.Maness: by will  
?/?/69 - ?/?/77: Alleen White Jones: by will  
6/20/11 - ?/?/69: Dr. Albert Carl Jones: deed 230-652  
- 6/20/11: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

**TAX NUMBER:**

223-1-7

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

- Sanborn maps: Lot was probably vacant in 1917; house first appeared in 1924: streetnumber was 303.
- McKelden Smith (1979), p. 61.
- [unknown book, photocopy in files of Johnson Street Neighborhood Association], p. 218: Dr. A.C. Jones, on board of directors of first Chamber of Commerce, 1919.
- High Point Enterprise, January 16, 1955: Dr. A.C. Jones part of Chamber which was instrumental in construction of Southern Furniture Exposition Building, 1921.
- Interview with Sarah Wilson Jones, 1987: Dr. A.C. Jones' children: Dr. Carl White Jones, Helen Jones, Sarah Wilson Jones, William Macy Jones, Carolyn Jones.

This house was built about 1912 for Cicero C. Swain, a wholesale dry goods merchant.

In 1927 Cornelius H. Williard bought the place and moved in with his wife Katherine Boaz Williard. The couple had previously lived in Salt Lake City, Utah, where Mr. Williard sold R. J. Reynolds tobacco products and Mrs. Williard was a registered nurse. But they had roots in High Point -- they moved here to care for Mr. Williard's aged parents.

Once in High Point, Cornelius Williard worked for several local dairies before co-founding the Lindale Dairy with R.O. Lindsay about 1932. Lindsay, one of High Point's leading textile men, was Williard's neighbor at 1002 Johnson Street. The Dairy became a High Point institution over the decades, with control eventually passing to the Williard's son C.H. Williard, Jr. Interestingly, the Williard's daughter Ruth also followed in parental footsteps, choosing a career as a nurse.

In 1954, their children grown, Cornelius and Katherine Williard moved to a new, smaller cottage next door at 1104 Johnson Street. Rudgley Calhoun, founder of High Point's Calhoun Drug Company, bought the old house from the Williard family. Owners since then have included James M. Elson, Jeffery Neal Brown, and Timothy M. Caplanides.

This is a one-and-a-half story house probably was originally constructed with a blend of Victorian and Colonial architecture. The massing shows a Victorian love for complexity: it consists of a main block with a small side wing, enlivened here and there by projecting bay windows. The wings are topped with steep-pitched gambrel roofs, a characteristic of the Dutch Colonial style then being introduced in the South. Gable ends are wood shingled, while the first story is sheathed in wooden weatherboarding.

Sometime after the house was built, apparently, it was updated in the newer Bungalow style. This likely occurred when the Williard family purchased it in 1927. The wrap-around front porch was given a balustrade and columns of rustic wood shingles. And a second-story sleeping porch was added at the front of the residence. Since that time there have been few visible changes made to the exterior.

#### 1986 OWNER:

Timothy M. Caplanides & wife Jane H.

(since 1985: deed 3460-1540)

#### PREVIOUS OWNERS:

6/29/84 - 9/13/85: Jeffery N. Brown & wife: deed 3386-922  
 6/21/77(?) - 6/29/84: James M. Elson & wife: deed 2863-656  
 2/18/54 - 6/21/77: Rudgley M. Calhoun: deed 1534-407  
 4/15/43 - 2/18/54: C.H. Williard & wife Kate: deed 1015-371  
 2/1/27 - 4/15/42: P.W. Williard: deed 561-63  
 3.5/10 - 2/1/27: C.C. Swain & wife Mable: 224-24  
 - 3/5/10: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

#### TAX NUMBER:

223-2-13

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

• Sanborn maps: First shown in 1917: street # was 302.  
 • McKelden Smith (1979), p. 61.  
 • Ruth Williard, letter to Charles Navratil, August 15, 1986.  
 (See also #1104, and Lindsay house at #1002).

In the early years of the twentieth century, one of the few occupations open to a widowed woman was the operation of a boarding house. Louise Johnson Diffie, widow of Alfred M. Diffie, bought this lot from the Home Investment and Improvement Company in 1911 and about 1913 had this house built and began taking in boarders.

Mrs. Diffie's grandson remembers that the boarders included young men who went on to become prominent High Point citizens: "Mac Leath, who became an outstanding eye, ear, nose and throat man; Joe Temple who came into High Point with a finance organization and later became an automobile distributor of considerable importance; and Jim Hogg, who has been very influential in the Presbyterian Church." Mrs. Diffie also raised her two daughters here, as well as a nephew, Jim Diffie, who founded Colony House Furniture, a Washington retail store.

The most significant person associated with the house is Sidney H. Tomlinson, who courted daughter Gertrude Diffie here and married her. Tomlinson had organized the Tomlinson Chair Company in 1905, eventually one of the city's biggest furniture manufacturers, whose massive plant adjacent to downtown now holds the Market Square trade show facility.

When Louise Johnson Diffie died in 1942, the house passed to her daughter Mrs. S.H. Tomlinson. In 1944 it was purchased by Rev. Austin B. Conrad, and subsequent owners have included the Peoples Missionary Baptist Church, and James and Eula Atkins.

The Diffie House is a spacious example of the plain-trimmed Rectilinear architectural style. It is two stories tall, with the characteristic hip roof, front dormer, and full-width one-story front porch of the Rectilinear style. The symmetrical front facade features eight-over-one-pane double-hung sash windows, and a centrally-placed front door. The porch has paired square columns of wood, and a wooden balustrade with close-

spaced square balusters. The original wooden siding of the Diffie House has been covered with asbestos shingles, perhaps in the 1950s. Behind the dwelling is an early one-story gabled-roofed garage.

#### 1986 OWNER:

Eula H. Atkins (since 1965: deed 2222-419)  
same address. 27262  
(919) 889-7595

#### PREVIOUS OWNERS:

9/11/59 - 5/17/65: James E. Atkins & wf. Eula : deed 1849-115  
2/26/57 - 9/11/59: Peoples Missionary Baptist : deed 1712-166  
3/7/44 - 2/26/57: Rev. Austin B. Conrad & wf. : deed 1038-607  
- 3/7/44: Mrs. S.H. Tomlinson: by will  
7/18/11 - : Louise Johnson Diffie: deed 230-266  
- 7/18/11: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

#### TAX NUMBER:

223-1-6

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Sanborn maps: This portion of this block not mapped 1917; house first appeared in 1924: street number was 303.
- McKelden Smith (1979), p. 61.
- Bill Tomlinson, letter to Sarah Jones, July 25, 1986: His grandmother Mrs. L.J. Diffie lived here 20 years til death in 1942.
- Sidney H. Tomlinson, Jr., letter to Charles Navratil, July 31, 1986: Mrs. Diffie's children were Gertrude, who married Claude Reitzel, and Ethel, who married S.H. Tomlinson, founder of Tomlinson Furniture of High Point.
- McPherson (1976), p. 17 (S.H. Tomlinson helped organize High Point Country Club, 1922), 21 (S.H. Tomlinson started Tomlinson Chair circa 1905, eventually one of High Point's biggest firms), 69 (huge Tomlinson Chair plant became Market Square trade show facility in late 1970s), 110 (more on genesis of Tomlinson Chair).

Lindale Dairy executive Cornelius H. Williard had this small brick house built as his retirement home in 1954. Williard and his wife Katherine had previously lived next door at 1102 Johnson Street for twenty-two years and raised two children.

The Williard family sold 1104 Johnson Street in 1961 to Realtor W.R. Malpass, who lived here with his wife Etta. In 1968 the house was purchased by Rose K. Finch.

The Williard House is a well-designed early example of the Ranch style, which became popular for suburban High Point dwellings during the 1950s and 1960s. It is a simple rectangle in massing, one story tall with a low-pitched gable roof. A massive exterior end chimney promises a cheery hearth within. The wide front eaves of the roof are supported by two oversize brackets of corbelled brick which extend outward from the edges of the front facade, an unusual design feature. Windows are steel-frame units, a modernistic touch popular among 1950s architects. There is no front porch, as in earlier dwellings nearby. Rather, a small brick stoop is found in front of the asymmetrically located front door. Across the rear of the house is a weatherboarded wing that is probably a later addition.

A detached garage with a gable roof and similar wide weatherboarding stands behind the main house.

**1986 OWNER:**

Rose K. Finch (since 1968: deed 2389-485)  
same address, 27262  
(919) 882-4795

**PREVIOUS OWNERS:**

11/13/61 - 6/25/68: W.R. & Etta G. Malpass: deed 1983-279  
10/16/52 - 11/13/61: C.H. Williard & wife: deed 1457-497  
11/30/40 - 10/16/52: Mrs. Lewis E. Teague: deed 1003-581  
7/7/34 - 11/30/40: W.F. Bailey: deed 732-630  
7/9/27 - 7/7/34: Lewis E. Teague: deed 568-226  
1/4/19 - 7/9/27: C.C. Swain & wife Mable: deed 319-196  
6/12/13 - 1/4/19: R.H. Garrison: deed 254-389  
- 6/12/13: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

**TAX NUMBER:**

223-2-14

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

•Sanborn maps: This portion of this block not mapped 1917;  
land shown vacant 1924.  
•McKelden Smith (1979), p. 61.  
•Ruth Williard, letter to Charles Navratil, August 15, 1986.  
(See also #1102)



This one-story dwelling was built about 1946 by R. E. Campbell, and its first residents were Roy and Jacquelyn Carr. Roy Carr came to High Point in World War II with the Records Unit of the War Department, which utilized space in the city's Southern Furniture Market tower. He met and married Jacquelyn, a secretary in the unit, and made the city his home. By the 1960s the High Point city directory listed Mr. Carr as president of Star Sales Company, wholesale novelties.

From 1966 to 1972 the house was the property of Opal B. Conrad, who lived with her retired husband Conrad on the Old Winston Road and evidently maintained this as a rental dwelling. Owners since 1972 have included Jacquelyn Carr Thomas, Andrew M.L. Gould, and Bonnie Bingham Cashion.

This residence is one of only a handful of houses built after World War II in the Johnson Street Historic District. It is a one-story Ranch style example, and is set further back from the street than its older neighbors - it is said that the builder intended to add to the front, but never got around to it.

The house has a gable roof, and a symmetrical front facade with no porch. Walls are sheathed in wide horizontal boarding, which is rounded at the top and bottom of each board. At the north side of the house is a one-story addition, which may have started life as a carport. It features a flat roof with a simple wooden balustrade, and a large front picture window. There is also a flat-roofed addition at the rear of the house.

**1986 OWNER:**

Bonnie Bingham Cashion (since 1984; deed 3416-923)  
1309 Westminster Drive, High Point, 27260  
(919) 882-7163

**PREVIOUS OWNERS:**

4/5/83 - 20/9/84: Andrew M.L. Gould: deed 3277-297  
8/17/78 - 4/5/83: Jacqueline Carr Thomas: deed 2498-774  
9/20/66 - 8/17/78: Opal B. Conrad: deed 2236-754  
8/27/46 - 9/20/66: Roy E. Carr: deed 1130-74  
7/3/45 - 8/27/46: R.E. Campbell: deed 1074-501  
9/28/17 - 7/3/45: W.S. Diffee: deed 298-351  
6/3/15 - 9/28/17: Alice N. Charles: deed 272-233  
4/31/14 - 6/3/15: H.J. Coffield: deed 254-158  
3/23/12 - 4/31/14: R.C. Charles & wife Alice: by will  
6/15/10 - 3/23/12: R.C. Charles: deed 236-63  
-6/15/10: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

**TAX NUMBER:**

223-1-5

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

•Sanborn maps: This portion of this block not mapped 1917; land vacant in 1924.  
•McKelden Smith (1979), p. 61.  
•Sarah Wilson Jones interview, 1987: Mildred Harmon Coffield, wife of 1914 owner, was sister of Hazel Harmon Briggs, first wife of J.G. Briggs, Sr., another Johnson Street resident.

**NOTE:**

Commercial National Bank cashier R.C. Charles also owned lots at 1003 and 1005 in early 1910s. Diffee family lived next door at 1103 for over forty years.

The house at 1106 Johnson Street holds a tragic story of promise unfulfilled.

The residence was built for Lewis E. Teague and his wife Margaret Rankin Teague. Lewis Teague became Judge of High Point Municipal Court when he was just 28 years old. North Carolina's youngest Judge. A community leader, he served on the city's first Parks Commission. Today Judge Teague's portrait still hangs in the old Courthouse.

In 1938 Lewis Teague ran in the Democratic primary for the Sixth Congressional District seat vacated by William B. Umstead, who had stepped down to run for North Carolina Governor. Teague won the primary and seemed assured of his seat in Congress -- he had no Republican opponent. But five days before the November election Judge Teague suffered a heart attack in his chambers at the Courthouse, and died at age 40. The seat in Congress was filled by Carl Durham, who served twenty years in Washington.

Mrs. Teague held onto the house until 1952, renting it for several years to her brother Robert B. Rankin. Rankin, a High Point insurance man, was also active in local politics. He served two terms on City Council (1947-49 and 1949-51) while he lived here.

Owners since the early 1950s have included-- among others -- furniture men Sidney L. Neely, proprietor of Neely Veneers, Guy K. Patrick, superintendent of the Southeastern Foam Rubber Company. Josef English Walker purchased the dwelling in 1976.

The Lewis Teague residence is a handsome red brick Bungalow style example, influenced by English Cottage architecture. A combination of hip, jerkin-head, and shed roofs gives the two-story structure a quaint appearance. Eaves are decorated with rustic rafter-like brackets, and two shed-roofed dormers poke through the roof. Windows

are eight-over-one-pane double-hung sash units, grouped picturesquely in ones, twos, or threes. The small one-story front porch has doric columns, no balustrade, and a jerkin-head roof with lattice-like woodwork decorating the gable.

Behind the house is a matching one-story detached garage with weatherboard siding, bracketed eaves, and a jerkin-head roof.

#### 1986 OWNER:

Josef English Walker (since 1976: deed 2846-609)  
same address, 27262  
(919) 883-0852

#### PREVIOUS OWNERS:

5/26/75 - 11/15/76: Alan C. Kotila & wt. Linda: deed 2760-117  
4/9/73-5/26/75: Clarence R. Williams & wife deed 2661-536  
12/7/64 - 4/9/73: Robert C. Malpass & wife deed 2193-538  
5/11/56 - 12/7/64: G.K. Patrick & wife M.: deed 1670-314  
10/16/52 - 5/11/56: S.L. Neely & wife Mildred: deed 1457-47  
5/5/24 - 10/16/52: Lewis E. Teague & wife: deed 450-156  
12/27/22 - 5/5/24: B.J. Dunn & wife Harriet: deed 400-326  
5/2/21 - 12/27/22: W.C. Burns: deed 364-166  
2/24/13 - 5/2/21: J.H. Dobbs: deed 245-203  
1/25/13 - 2/24/13: Anne D. Dobbs: deed 245-106  
- 1/25/13: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

#### TAX NUMBER:

223-2-15

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Sanborn maps: This portion of this block not mapped 1917: land shown vacant 1924.
- McKelden Smith (1979), p. 61.
- Robert B. Rankin, letter to Charles Navratil, July 29, 1986: His sister Margaret and her husband Judge Teague lived here.
- Peggy Teague Dominick, letter to Sarah Jones, 1986: Judge Teague's portrait has been hung in old courthouse.
- McPherson (1976), p. 72: L. E. Teague was member of first parks commission.

#### NOTE:

Teague owned lot next door at 1104 from 1927 to 1934 (his wife later owned that same lot from 1940 to 1952). W.R. Malpass (relative of owner of 1106?) owned 1104 from 1961 to 1968.

Richard T. Chappell and his wife Allie bought this lot in the spring of 1914 and soon had this house built for themselves. Chappell was another of the many furniture company managers who lived on Johnson Street. He worked as a superintendent at the Guilford Table Company.

After only a couple of years here, the Chappells sold to Walter L. Hargett. Mr. Hargett was an agent for the Equitable Life Assurance Company, and his wife Mabel worked in various jobs helping juvenile girls. The couple owned this house all the rest of their lives. It was not until 1975 -- fifty-eight years later -- that ownership passed from the Hargett family to Kathy J. Murrow. Murrow held the property til 1985, when she sold to Gerald and Jean Jennings.

The two-story Chapell-Hargett house is another example of the Rectilinear style, with a hip roof, front dormer, and broad front porch. Asbestos shingles now cover its exterior. The structure's overall form and its porch trim -- paired square columns and closely spaced square balusters -- are quite similar to #1103, two doors away. Both houses were erected in the mid 1910s, and it is possible that they are by the same builder. A close look does show some substantial differences, though. The Chapell-Hargett House has two chimneys, while the Diffie House has only one. Windows at the Chapell-Hargett House have a single large pane of glass in the upper sash, rather than eight small panes. Most important is the fact that the front facade of the Chapell-Hargett House is not symmetrical. The off-center windows and front door indicate that the Chapell-Hargett house likely has a much different interior arrangement than its neighbor.

**1986 OWNER:**

Gerald M. Jennings & wf. Jean (since 1985: deed 3473-1402)

**PREVIOUS OWNERS:**

7/7/75 - 11/25/85: Kathy J. Murrow: deed 2762-635  
10/4/72 - 7/7/75: Mabel H. Hargett: deed 2651-368  
?/?/50 - 10/4/72: Mrs. Mabel H. Hargett: by will  
11/6/35 - ?/?/50: Mrs. W.L. Hargett, gdn.: by will  
5/17/17 - 1/16/35: Walter L. Hargett: deed 295-295  
2/26/14 - 5/17/17: R.T. Chappell & wife Allie: deed 256-660  
4/31/14 - 2/26/14: J. Lee Charles & wife Rosa: deed 256-299  
6/15/10 - 4/31/14: J. Lee Charles: deed 236-63  
- 6/15/10: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

**TAX NUMBER:**

223-1-4

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

- Sanborn maps: This portion of this block not mapped 1917: house first appeared 1924: street number was 307.
- McKelden Smith (1979), p. 61.
- Mabel-Hoover Hargett Harrington, letter to Charles Navratil, July 25, 1986: She grew up here.
- McPherson (1976), p. 31: mention of Mabel Hargett working "in various jobs helping juvenile girls."

Built about 1920, this house was owned only briefly by salesman Beverly R. Thurman, brother of J. Royster Thurman, Sr., who lived at 908 Johnson Street. B.R. Thurman and his wife Huella sold the dwelling in 1923 to W.B. and Caroline McEwen.

Wooster Baird McEwen began his McEwen Lumber Company at Asheville in the North Carolina mountains in 1899. In 1923, as High Point boomed as a woodworking center, McEwen moved his operation to High Point. He quickly became a business leader in his adopted town, serving as president of the Chamber of Commerce from 1928 to 1931, and helping to found the nearby Greensboro Municipal Airport.

W.B. McEwen and his family lived in this house from 1923 until about 1927. A daughter who spent part of her childhood here, Louise McEwen Smith, later won recognition as a woman pilot beginning in 1940, a time when female aviators were rare. She eventually served on the Women's Advisory Commission on Aviation under President Lyndon Johnson.

After the McEwen family moved around the corner onto Farriss Avenue, they maintained this house for rental. Tenants at 1108 Johnson Street included attorney B.I. Walser, Dr. J.N. Harney, and City School Superintendent Charles F. Carroll, who later became State Superintendent of Schools for North Carolina.

In 1943 the McEwens sold the residence to M.N. and Elizabeth Hedrick. The Hedrick family lived here until 1978 when they sold to Frederick R. Law. Law, who controlled several other Johnson Street parcels, rented the house out. In 1985 James Michael Glover purchased 1108 Johnson Street as his family residence.

The Thurman-McEwen House is an example of New England Colonial Revival architecture, loosely modelled on the 17th

century cottages of the Massachusetts colony. Its form is that of a one-story gabled cottage, but long shed-roofed dormers at the front and the back effectively make it a two-story house. There is a two-story shed-roofed rear wing which may be original. A small one-story porch with a gabled roof is placed asymmetrically at one side of the front facade. Several decorative touches give a medieval flavor, reminiscent of America's earliest architecture: the brick interior chimney is capped by three brick arches; stubby carved brackets decorate the narrow front eaves; windows have twelve small square panes in each upper sash.

Today the house appears to be in good original exterior condition, except for metal columns substituted on the front and side porches.

#### 1986 OWNER:

James Michael Glover (since 1985: deed 3435-1315)

#### PREVIOUS OWNERS:

8/30/78 - 3/29/85: Frederick R. Law: deed 2948-898  
??/78 - 8/30/78: Elizabeth Hedrick: by will  
??/76 - ??/78: Elizabeth & Virginia Hedrick: by will  
??/43 - ??/76: M.N. Hedrick heirs: by will  
1/16/43 - ??/43: M.N. Hedrick & wife Lizzie: deed 1001-355  
8/3/23 - 1/16/43: Mrs. Caroline N. McEwen: deed 415-123  
4/12/20 - 8/3/23: Huella B. Thurman & husb. B.R.: deed 344-404  
6/29/17 - 4/12/20: Eunice A. Parker: deed 298-128  
7/1/13 - 6/29/17: E.N. Allen: deed 263-313  
1/25/13-7/1/13: Annie Dobbs & Virginia Quarles: deed 245-106  
- 1/25/13: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

#### TAX NUMBER:

223-2-17

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

•Sanborn maps: This portion of this block not mapped 1917: house first shown 1924: street number was 308.  
•McKelden Smith (1979), p. 61.  
•McPherson (1976), p. 8: W.B. McEwen [who lived here with wife Caroline] moved his McEwen Lumber Company here from Asheville in the 1920s. By 1983 had branches in 5 states.  
p. 19. W.B. McEwen and Greensboro Municipal airport.  
p. 44. W.B. McEwen served as Chamber of Com. Pres.  
•Louise McEwen Smith, letter to Charles Navratil, 1986: Family later moved to Farriss Av. Material on their history is at High Point Museum. Attached photocopy of 8" x 11" ad for McEwen Lumber gives firm's history.

This house was built for Alice White, whose husband Walter White worked as a bookkeeper, first with the High Point Buggy Company and later with White Way Auto Company.

The house stayed in the family from 1912 to 1946, with ownership passing from Mrs. White to Mr. White, then to their children, one of whom married W.C. Johnson. The Johnsons resided elsewhere and maintained the house as a rental property.

From 1946 to 1951 Margaret and Walter Folger owned the dwelling. They lived next door at 1111 and continued to rent this house to tenants. Since 1951 the residence has had several owners.

This house is among the earliest on Johnson Street, and it is one of the few to show influence of Victorian architecture, which was fading from popularity by the early 1910s. It is two-stories tall, with a gable-roofed main block, and a projecting gabled front bay. The house has recently been remodelled with artificial siding, a new porch balustrade, and possibly new turned porch columns.

**1986 OWNER:**

Jill I. Wright (since 1986: deed 3461-1159)

**PREVIOUS OWNERS:**

12/12/84 - 9/13/86: Phil C. McNeill & wife: deed 3421-94

9/10/81 - 12/12/84: Frederick R. Law: deed 3184-165

9/24/79 - 9/10/81: Frederick Law & wife: deed 3008-834

11/17/66 - 9/24/79: Bobby M. Burleson: deed 2304-724

4/18/63 - 11/17/66: Henry Shavitz: deed 2082-460

4/11/51 - 4/18/63: Pearl M. Young: deed 1376-61

5/17/46 - 4/11/51: Walter Folger & wife: deed 1122-465

?/?/28 - 5/17/46: W.C. Johnson & wife M. W., et al: by will

Willed first to Alice's husband Walter, then to children,  
one of whom married W.C. Johnson.

8/24/10 - ?/?/28: Alice N. White: deed 224-205

- 8/24/10: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

**TAX NUMBER:**

223-1-3

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

•Sanborn maps: This portion of this block not mapped 1917:  
house first shown 1924:

street number was 309.

•McKelden Smith (1979), p. 61.

This house was one of several on Johnson Street which produced children who went on to make their mark far from High Point.

Mrs. C.H. Baker, a widow, bought this house from its builder in 1916 and lived here until 1921. That year it was purchased by Robert C. Hubbard, a newcomer to High Point. He had arrived in 1919 from his native upstate New York to manage High Point's McLellans 5¢ to \$1.00 Store. Hubbard spent most of his life in High Point, except for a brief stint in New York City 1929-1931, and he rose within the McLellan organization until he became superintendent of construction for the huge chain. A son remembers that he "was instrumental in starting up over 750 stores in the eastern part of the United States."

Robert Hubbard and his wife Florence must have liked children, for not only did they have eight of their own, but Mr. Hubbard also served as scoutmaster for the neighborhood's boys. At least one Hubbard youngster was born right in this house -- Hampton Hubbard, who became a physician with the Navy. Other Hubbard offspring included: Clark, who organized the first Industrial Engineering Department for the Miliken corporation in South Carolina; Donald, who entered the Marine Corps and retired as Base Commander of Camp Lejeune; and Elizabeth, who became an art illustrator, Vogue model, and Pratt Institute art instructor in New York City.

The Hubbards occupied the house into the mid 1930s. Since that time it has passed through the hands of half a dozen owners. The unassuming two-story Four Square style residence remains in good condition today.

This house and 1112 next door were both constructed in 1915 by the Independent Insurance and Investment Company. They are two-story Four Square examples which share the same plan, each with a hip roof, a front dormer, one-over-over-pane double-

hung sash, and a wide one-story front porch. This house is frame while the one next door is sheathed in brick. In recent years the Baker house has been covered with synthetic siding, and its porch has been rebuilt omitting the original balustrade.

#### 1986 OWNER:

David Jackson (since 1986: deed 3487-1763)

#### PREVIOUS OWNERS:

??/86 - 2/5/86: Ollie D. Keith heirs: by will  
 3/1/67 - ??/86: Ollie D. Keith: deed 2332-145  
 10/31/63 - 3/1/67: Marshall Keith & wf. Ollie: deed 2121-631  
 1/19/56 - 10/31/63: Eland C. Farlow: deed 1651-284  
 10/22/46 - 1/19/56: B.S. Goode & wife: deed 1144-727  
 4/6/46 - 10/22/46: G.D. Smith & wife Gladys: deed 1107-640  
 5/17/44 - 4/6/46: S.T. Clement & wife Edna: deed 1041-134  
 3/19/31 - 5/17/44: Prudential Insurance Co.: deed 759-125  
 7/11/21 - 3/19/31: R.C. Hubbard & wife Flor.: deed 345-193  
 5/26/21 - 7/11/21: High Point Ins. & Real Est.: deed 367-228  
 12/17/15 - 5/26/21: Mrs. C.H. Baker: deed 274-130  
 - 12/17/15: Independent Ins. & Invest. Co.

Chain of title not clear

: E.N. Allen: deed 263-313

: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

#### TAX NUMBER:

223-2-18

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

• Sanborn maps: This portion of this block not mapped 1917: house first shown 1924: street number was 310.

• McKelden Smith (1979), p. 61.

• Hampton Hubbard, letter to Charles Navratil, September 9, 1986: He was born at 1110 Johnson Street in 1923.

• Clark Hubbard, letter to Charles Navratil, September 9, 1986.

#### NOTE:

1917 city directory lists Mrs. M.R. Baker as resident.

Wilkes McClave and his wife Gertrude had this house built about 1912. Mr. McClave owned and managed the Central Foundry and Machinery Company (originally the High Point Machine Works). The large brick factory turned out a variety of products for factory owners in the region, ranging from castings for cotton mill machines, to entire small engines. "The sale of these perfect machines [5 to 80 horsepower engines] has been large," noted newspaper editor J.J. Farriss in 1912. "The company has calls for them not only in the South but in the North and West."

In addition to its main line of "hi-tech" equipment, McClaves' foundry also made portable saw mills and related machinery for the loggers around High Point. One product was a "horse power," a now-forgotten mechanism that was essential to backwoods lumber mills. A horse, walking an endless circle, turned a geared driveshaft that provided constant, high-speed power for saws, planers, and other equipment.

The McClaves sold this house in 1918 and it passed through several hands over the next decade. One noteworthy owner was businessman John W. Clinard (owner of Clinard Milling Company, president of the Monarch Feed and Grain Company and the High Point Pad and Excelsior Company, and vice president of Consolidated Veneer and Panel) who lived on posh South Main Street and held this property for rental 1922-28.

In 1928 the house was purchased by the Folger family. Walter and Margaret Folger raised four daughters at 1111 Johnson Street, and lived there for over half a century. Walter C. Folger got his start with John Clinard as a real estate man, and married the boss' daughter. By 1931 Walter Folger was secretary of Clinard-Folger Real Estate in High Point. Later Folger joined the federal government as a housing specialist. By 1954 he was evaluator for the Federal Housing Administration.

Another of Johnson Street's earlier dwellings, this one-and-a-half story house sports a two-story Victorian tower, which slices up through the roof of the wide front porch. The gable roof of the main block of the house has wood shingled ends and virtually no eaves. Walls are weatherboard. The broad wrap-around porch still has its gracefully-tapered doric columns, but has lost its original balustrade.

Behind the house, the original barn is now a two-car garage.

#### 1986 OWNER:

Margaret C. Folger (since 1983: by will)  
same address, 27262  
(919) 883-2158

#### PREVIOUS OWNERS:

4/4/28 - 7/7/83: Walter C. Folger: deed 600-143

12/9/22 - 4/4/28: J. W. Clinard: deed 377-390

3/1/22 - 12/9/22: H.E. Motsinger & wife: deed

Chain of title is unclear 1918 - 1922

8/31/18 - : Robert Brockelt, Jr.: deed 265-200

10/24/10 - 8/31/18: Gertrude A. McClave: deed 224-671

- 10/24/10: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

#### TAX NUMBER:

223-1-2

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

•Sanborn maps: This portion of this block not mapped 1917: house first shown 1924: street number was 311.

•McKelden Smith (1979), p. 61.

•Sue Folger Converse, "Memories of a former Johnson Street Resident/Native!" 1986, in the files of the Johnson Street Neighborhood Association.

•J.J. Farriss (19 ): two pages on Central Foundry & Machine Co., with photo of chief Wilkes McClave.

Insurance executive Walter B. Griffin was the first resident-owner of this dwelling, which was built in 1915. He was assistant superintendent of the High Point office of the Life Insurance Company of Virginia. Griffin and his wife Selma came to High Point from Elizabeth City in 1908 immediately after their marriage. They raised three sons in this house: W. Fulmer Griffin, John Davis Griffin, and Thomas Snyder Griffin.

In 1927 the Griffin family sold to C.C. Swain, who six months later sold the house again, to John D. Rogers, Jr., and his wife Alice. During the fifty-one years that his family lived here, John Rogers worked first as a banker, then as city tax collector, and later as secretary-treasurer of Certified Titles and Checks. Neighbors remember that he was also nationally accredited as a football referee, and once traveled to Germany for the Army in that capacity.

Michael K. Moore owned the dwelling from 1978 to 1982, then sold to Thomas and Ellen Norton.

Like 1110 Johnson Street next door, the Griffin House is a two-story example of the Four Square housetype. Both were built at the same time by the Independent Insurance and Investment Company. Neighbors recall that originally the Griffin House had wooden siding just like its next-door twin. Today the Griffin's dwelling is sheathed in red brick, and its wide front porch is supported by corbelled brick piers that seem to date from the 1920s. The exterior of the structure appears to be in excellent condition. There is a small gabled shed behind the house.

**1986 OWNER:**

Thomas B. and Ellen M. Norton (since 1982: deed 3203)  
same address, 27262  
(919) 882-6344

**PREVIOUS OWNERS:**

10/17/78 - 3/18/82: Michael K. Moore & wf. deed 3011-346  
7/15/48 - 10/17/78: J.D. Rogers & wife Alice: deed 1236-6  
7/13/48 - 7/15/48: Owen Reese: deed 1236-7  
3/24/28 - 7/13/48: J.D. Rogers, Jr. & wife deed 600-312  
9/23/27 - 3/24/28: C.C. Swain: deed 568-357  
11/12/15 - 9/23/27: W.B. Griffin & wf. Selma: deed 272-684  
11/12/15 - 11/12/15: Independent Ins. & Inv. deed 315-259  
- 11/12/15: W.B. Griffin?

Chain of title not clear 1913-1915

2/1/13- : Charles T. Amos: deed 245-535

-2/1/13: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

**TAX NUMBER:**

223-2-1

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

•Sanborn maps: This portion of this block not mapped 1917; house first shown 1924; street number was 312.  
•McKelden Smith (1979), p. 61.  
•Louise Griffin, letter to Sarah Wilson Jones, August 22, 1986: Selma & Walter B. Griffin (Louise's parents in-law) came to High Point from Elizabeth City in 1908, immediately after marriage. Their children were W. Fulmer Griffin, John David Griffin, and Thomas Snyder Griffin.



This residence has been home to two medical men of note, Dr. Frederick R. Taylor and his son Dr. Frederick H. Taylor.

Dr. F.R. Taylor and his wife Rachel had the house built in 1915. Taylor was not only a medical doctor, but also, according to former neighbor Robert Rankin, "High Point's first and only psychiatrist for many years."

The couple raised four children in the house -- Martha, Sarah, Mark, and Frederick. In 1986 Mark Taylor remembered they shared a childhood on the street filled with rollerskating, baseball, games like Prisoner's Base and Hide-and-Go-Seek, and visits from the vegetable wagon and the ice wagon.

Youngest Taylor son Frederick followed in his father's footsteps. He became a thoracic surgeon and established practice in Charlotte, North Carolina, in 1954, where he worked for more than three decades. In the mid and late 1950s he assisted in a pioneering effort at North Carolina State University to develop artificial arteries. "I, along with some others and with the aid of textile people at State College, developed a seamless Dacron artery to replace damaged blood vessels," Taylor recalled in 1986, "and similar prosthetic vessels are used to this day."

In 1960 the Taylor family sold their house to John G. Briggs, Sr., and his second wife Thelma. Mr. Briggs, an executive with Beeson Hardware Company and an officer of several other High Point firms, was already a long-time Johnson Street resident. He had lived on the street since the 1910s and raised his family here. Mr. Briggs died in 1970 and his wife passed away five years later. Michael Kreitz purchased the residence at that time, and in 1979 sold it to Randy and Daneal Hawkins.

Architecturally, the Taylor residence is a one-and-a-half story Bungalow with Tudor

Revival decorative touches. The basic hip roof sports a number of wood shingled dormers, plus several prominent gables with Tudor "half timbering" of wood and stucco. Windows are mostly double-hung, with small panes in the upper sash and a single large pane below. The sidelights and transom of the front door carry the theme of quaint small panes even further -- some forty small square pieces of glass are used. A full-width porch with doric columns shades the front of the house.

There is a one-story hip-roofed garage at the rear of the lot.

#### 1986 OWNER:

Randy J. & Daneal W. Hawkins (since 1979: deed 2993-495) same address, 27262 (919) 884-5208

#### PREVIOUS OWNERS:

12/7/77 - 4/2/79: Michael Kreitz & wife: deed 2902-56

12/29/75 - 12/7/77: Michael Kreitz: deed 2799-3

3/3/60 - 12/29/75: Thelma C. Briggs: deed 1883-341

11/17/55 - 3/3/60: Rachel F. Taylor: will 6-413

3/23/15 - 11/17/55: Dr. F.R. Taylor: deed 270-347

12/26/11 - 3/23/15: D.R. Parker: deed 272-23

- 12/26/11: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

#### TAX NUMBER:

223-1-1

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

•Sanborn maps: This portion of this block not mapped 1917; house first shown 1924: street number was 313.

•McKelden Smith (1979), p. 61.

•Frederick H. Taylor, letter to Charles Navratil, August 25, 1986: He remembers rollerskating, baseball in vacant lots.

•Sarah Taylor Phillips, letter to Charles Navratil, July 1986:

Grew up here (to age 21) in a "doctor's family of four children -- two boys and two girls." Memories of Ray Street school, ice & milk & laundry wagons and Miss Eli's [Eline's] vegetable cart.

•Mark H. Taylor, letter to Charles Navratil, August 22, 1986: details on the Taylor children, memories of Charley (the black man who drove the ice wagon), kids games, paper route.

•Robert B. Rankin, letter to Charles Navratil, July 29, 1986.

•John G. Briggs, Jr., letter to Charles Navratil, July 23, 1986:

His father lived here 1960-1970. [Thelma was father's 2nd wife]

•Mary Sue Briggs Short, letter to Charles Navratil, July 1986: her father lived here.

This house was built about 1923 for Charles Diffendal, an executive for the Marietta Paint Company, who lived here barely a year.

B.F. ("Jack") Burris purchased the residence in 1924. He had arrived in High Point in 1910s and converted a livery stable into the Gate City Motor Company. The automobile dealership grew to be one of the county's most prosperous. Burris handled such exotic lines as Stutz, Cord, Pierce-Arrow, and Dusenbury, and also functioned as a distributor of Kaiser-Frazer autos to dealers in a three-state area. He made a specialty of supplying high-powered motorcars to visitors to North Carolina's posh Pinehurst and Southern Pines resorts. Some High Point citizens still remember when Burris was "hailed into court for speeding when in a demonstration publicly he accelerated an Auburn from scratch at English Road to 100 miles an hour by the time he reached Parkway."

Jack Burris' customers introduced him to the world of stocks and bonds, and he grew wealthy. In his later years he made major donations to High Point civic projects, notably a \$100,000 challenge grant toward the enlargement of High Point Memorial Hospital in 1958. Today Burris is regarded among the city's leading philanthropists.

By 1930 Jack Burris had outgrown this modest Johnson Street cottage and he sold the house to his brother. Arthur T. ("Doc") Burris and wife Susie lived in there for many years. Charles and Flossie MacIntyre bought the dwelling from the Burris family in 1985.

The Diffendal - Burris house is a well-built one-story brick Bungalow. The main gabled roof has stuccoed gable ends, and wide eaves which are supported by stick-like brackets. Two gabled "eyebrow" dormers peep through the front roof. The front facade is dominated by a full-width porch with square brick columns topped by a stuccoed

gable. Metal awnings over the windows and the porch are a comparatively recent addition.

Behind the house, facing Guilford Avenue, is a one-and-a-half-story frame garage with an unusually steep-sided gable roof.

#### 1986 OWNER:

Charles MacIntyre & wf. Flossie (since 1985: deed 3446-1436)  
175 Northpoint Av., High Point  
(919) 869-0155

#### PREVIOUS OWNERS:

7/80-5/28/85: Stanley Herman (trustee Susie Burris)  
deed 3048-562

5/21/57 - 7/7/80: Arthur T. Burris & wife deed 1714-225

5/5/57 - 5/21/57: Wm. L. Albertson : deed 1713-626

9/8/38 - 5/5/57: Guilford Realty: deed 853-551

11/17/30-9/8/38: A.T. Burris & wf. Susie: deed 655-233

7/26/24 - 11/17/30: B.F. Burris: deed 461-353

4/10/22 - 7/26/24: C.E. Diffendal: deed 382-239

4/12/21 - 4/10/22: Wyatt M. Jones & wf. deed 356-273

8/30/19 - 4/12/21: H.A. White: deed 329-276

7/2/17 - 8/30/19: D.R. Parker: deed 295-483

1/14/14 - 7/2/17: M. Luther Canup: deed 263-514

- 1/14/14: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

#### TAX NUMBER:

222-8-10

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

• Sanborn maps: This side of this block not mapped 1917: house first shown 1924: street number was 400.

• McKelden Smith (1979), p. 61.

• Charles E. Diffendal, Jr., letter to Charles Navratil, July 25, 1986: He grew up here.

• Robert B. Rankin, letter to Charles Navratil, July 29, 1986: Among Johnson Street residents was philanthropist "Jack" Burris. • Shipman (1983), p. 218: data on Jack Burris, philanthropist and owner of Gate City Motor Company. • McPherson (1976), pp. 12, 89: Jack Burris and High Point Memorial Hospital.

pp. 48-49: Burris and auto dealerships.

p. 63: Jack Burris an active Mason who helped fund mid-fifties temple on South Main Street.

The blocks are cast to imitate stone, an unusual feature in High Point.

Miss Maude E.J. Overaker bought this lot in 1911 from Home Investment and Improvement Company, and had this residence built soon afterward. Maude and her sister Alice lived here during the 1910s and 1920s. Johnson Street residents recall that the "Overaker Girls" kept chickens and shared eggs with the neighbors. They also had roses and helped young homemakers with cuttings and instructions for rooting them.

Both women worked at the High Point Studio, a photography shop run by J.E. Jones. Jones was the community's leading commercial photographer in the early twentieth century, now best remembered for his photos in the series of books about High Point written by J.J. Farriss. Maude Overaker married her boss in the late 1920s, and the couple resided in the house the rest of their lives.

The house remained in the family fifty-five years, finally being sold in 1966 to Etting and Betty Ives. In 1969 Roland J. Brown and his wife Reba bought the property. They resided here and operated their construction company Brown Builders from the house.

This compact one-and-a-half story Bungalow has a gable roof with an unusual gambrel-roofed dormer at the center of the front facade. Gable ends have returns, and there is wood shingling in the gable ends. A band of wood shingles extends around the house under the plain eaves. Main walls of the residence are now rough stucco, which appears to have been applied sometime after the house was built, probably when the hip-roofed one-story addition was made to the south side and rear of the dwelling. Windows throughout are one-over-one pane double-hung sash, and the big shady front porch has slender square columns.

Facing the alley behind the house is a one-story garage which has been greatly altered over the years, but which still retains portions of its original concrete block walls.

**1986 OWNER:**

Roland J. Brown & wf. (since 1980: deed 3130-257)  
P.O. Box 5065, High Point, 27262  
(919) 885-6550

**PREVIOUS OWNERS:**

8/10/75-6/23/80: Danny Joel Brown: deed 2790-373  
1/16/69-8/18/75: Roland J. Brown & wf.: deed 2419-73  
6/22/66-1/16/69: Etting W. Ives & wf.: deed 2281-724  
2/3/66 - 6/22/66: Clayton A. Fogleman: deed 2258-352  
11/11/11-2/3/66: Maude E.J. Overaker: deed 236-368

Maude Overaker married J. Edwin Jones and both lived here?

-11/11/11: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

**TAX NUMBER:**

222-7-14

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

- Sanborn maps: Land was vacant in 1917; house first appeared 1924; street number was 401.
- McKelden Smith (1979), p. 61.
- J.J. Farris (19 ): Commercial photographer J.E. Jones has been in High Point about 12 years. "Most of the excellent views represented in this book are the work of Mr. Jones."

Two sisters, Anne Peele and Cora White, bought this property in 1919 and had this house constructed. Anne was a widow, wife of the late J.W. Peele. Cora worked at the High Point Buggy Company, managed by her brother Henry White. The two women owned the dwelling until 1957. According to High Point city directories, Mrs. Peele lived here through 1924, and Miss White stayed on until 1931. After that the dwelling was rented for many years.

The house was owned briefly in 1957 by a C.W. Miller, then sold late that year to the Reverend C. Wesley Louvin and his wife Lois. They lived here about three years, then rented the house out for several years until it was bought by Howard Wayne Dunlap with his wife Lorene D. Dunlap. Mr. Dunlap was a supervisor at Kaylyn Upholstered Furniture Manufacturing, and his family resided here from 1967.

Peele and White's house is a one-and-a-half story frame Bungalow, whose exterior remains well-preserved except for artificial siding. The structure's main gable roof has its gable end toward the street. Large gabled dormers are located on each side of the roof. The roofs have wide eaves supported by stick-like brackets. Windows are six-over-one-pane double-hung sash units, except for a trio of front gable windows which each have a fixed sash with eighteen small square panes. The front of the house has a large, asymmetrically placed, gabled porch supported by thick square wooden columns on brick piers. The original porch balustrade survives. In recent years the house has been sheathed in well-proportioned aluminum or vinyl siding.

There is an old one-story gable-roof frame garage at the rear of the property.

**1986 OWNER:**

Howard Wayne Dunlap & wf. Lorene D.  
same address, 27262 (since 1972: deed 2602-160)  
919) 885-5771

**PREVIOUS OWNERS:**

8/12/57 - 8/4/72: C. Wesley Lovin & wf. Lois deed 1731-417  
1/22/57 - 8/12/57: C.W. Miller & wf. Lucille deed 1709-150  
8/30/19 - 1/22/57: Anne W. Peele & Cora White: deed 329-278  
7/2/17 - 8/30/19: D.R. Parker: deed 295-483  
4/14/14 - 7/2/17: M. Luther Canup: 263-514  
-4/14/14: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

**TAX NUMBER:**

222-8-12

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

•Sanborn maps: This side of this block not mapped 1917: house first appeared in 1924: street #was 402.  
•McKelden Smith(1979), p. 61.

**NOTE:**

This lot was part of #400 next door until 1919. This house carried the number 400 until about 1924, when it became 402. Later it was changed to 1202.

This house was the boyhood home of Harry W. Williamson, record-setting athlete who won a medal in track for the USA at the 1936 Olympics.

The residence was constructed in the mid-1910s as a rental dwelling, owned by Miss Maude Overaker next door. But in 1919 she sold the house the 1203 Johnson Street to the Williamson family. H.R. Williamson was a native of the Steele Creek community near Charlotte, North Carolina. He and his Virginia-born wife came to High Point, where he became treasurer of the mirror operation of Pittsburg Plate Glass, an important supplier to the furniture industry. The Williamsons raised two children on Johnson Street -- a daughter named Adelaide who married High Point surgeon Glenn Perry, and a son named Harry.

Young Harry's rise to athletic stardom began in the late 1920s at High Point High School, where he was third baseman for the baseball team and a reserve player for the football team. Physical education director Charles Spencer watched him run a lap around the track one day, and convinced Williamson to join the track squad. Harry set several state high school records for running events, and won a full scholarship to UNC Chapel Hill. Despite injuries, he broke records at meets from North Carolina to Toronto, and won a spot on the United States track team for the 1936 Olympics in Berlin.

The American track team attracted worldwide attention that year, for it included Jesse Owens and John Woodruff, two black athletes who successfully challenged host Adolph Hitler's claims that the white "aryan" race was superior to all. Williamson made his mark quietly amidst the clamor. He captured sixth place -- and was awarded a medal -- in the 800-yard run.

A few weeks later, on August 15, 1936, he ran his last race, a relay event at Britain's Empire Games. Harry Williamson and his teammates took first place for the USA and set a new world record, which bested the existing

mark by an incredible five seconds. Williamson retired from athletics, and after an honorary dinner attended by High Point and Chapel Hill dignitaries, he left for New York and a career as a textile and hosiery executive.

The elder Williamsons remained at 1203 Johnson Street long after Harry departed, eventually spending more than fifty years in the house. After H.R. Williamson retired from PPG he won election to the High Point City Council in 1960.

The Williamson house on Johnson Street was owned briefly in the early 1970s by Anne and Bruce Ogle and by Welborn R. Malpass. In 1972 David Stephen Coffee, a supervisor at Belk Department Stores, and his wife Jaque purchased the dwelling.

This dwelling is a straightforward example of Bungalow architecture, with all the trademarks of the style. It is one-and-a-half stories tall, with a broad gable roof and a large gabled front dormer. The wide eaves are supported by square-hewn brackets, and windows have wide-plain surrounds. The roof extends to shelter a square-columned porch that shades the entire front of the house.

In recent years the house has been covered with aluminum siding, and there is a new one-story garage at the back of the lot.

#### 1986 OWNER:

David Stephen Coffee & wf. Jaque  
same address, 27262 (since 1972: deed 2569-207)  
(919) 889-2107

#### PREVIOUS OWNERS:

5/25/71 - 1/21/72: Timothy J. Gross & wf: deed 2545-284  
4/19/71 - 5/25/71: Welborn R. Malpass & wf: deed 2543-163  
10/27/70 - 4/19/71: Anne Petre Ogle: deed 2502-510  
7/16/70 - 10/27/70: Bruce Lee Ogle & wf. Anne: deed 2495-136  
5/24/19 - 7/16/70: H.R. Williamson: deed 325-185  
5/28/12 - 5/24/19: Miss Maude E.J. Overaker: deed 236-369  
- 5/28/12: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

#### TAX NUMBER:

222-7-13

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

•Sanborn maps: house first appeared 1924: street # was 403.  
•Adelaide Williamson Perry (Mrs. Glenn G.), letter to Charles Navratil, July 1986: She grew up in house with brother Harry.  
•High Point Enterprise, June 21, 1981: Harry Williamson.

#### NOTE:

House appears in city directory sometime between 1913 and 1917, 1st resident is Patrick Rankin.

This residence was built for one of High Point's most important industrialists. C.C. Robbins provided the technical know-how and managerial experience for the city's first hosiery mill.

"The production of hosiery had its High Point beginnings one afternoon in 1905," according to Textile Leaders of the South, edited by Marjorie Young,

when J.H. Adams, who was connected with J.H. Millis in a pants manufacturing business, drove a horse and buggy to Randleman to confer with C.C. Robbins. The latter was the operator of a hosiery knitting plant in the Randolph [County] town on the banks of Deep River. The upshot of the conference was that Robbins agreed to come to High Point and manage and oversee a hosiery company which Millis and Adams were thinking of organizing.

Robbins became supervisor of High Point Hosiery Mills. In the early 1910s, as he and his wife Martha moved into their new Johnson Street house, Robbins helped form a second company known as Piedmont Hosiery Mills. In 1927 both concerns became part of High Point's giant Adams-Millis company. From Robbins' first efforts, hosiery manufacturing has grown in High Point until today the city is the national center of the hosiery industry.

Robbins only owned the Johnson Street property a few years. In 1916 he sold it to P.L. and Etta Payne. In 1919 they in turn sold to Miss Maude Overaker, who lived nearby at 1201 and owned several rental houses in this block. She rented 1204 Johnson Street to families for many years, until Grady and Blanche Mann purchased the house in 1958. They lived nearby on Farriss Avenue and continued to maintain the Johnson Street residence as a rental property. James T. Hubbard, a furniture craftsman, bought the structure in 1971 and has lived there since that time.

The Robbins House is a one-and-a-half story frame dwelling that shows influences of both the older Victorian architecture and the then-new Bungalow style. The flat-topped hip roof is pierced by two interior chimneys with corbelled brick caps. Front and side dormers have hipped roofs. Eaves are narrow, in the Victorian mode. The front facade is symmetrical, with two large one-over-one-pane double-hung sash windows flanking a central front door, which has sidelights and a transom.

In recent years the house and yard have seen a number of alterations, which give the dwelling a sort of "suburban Ranch style" appearance. Aluminum siding and false shutters added in 1984 cover the exterior. A new front porch with metal columns and railings replaces the original. A wide gravel driveway leads to a new detached garage at the rear.

#### 1986 OWNER:

James T. Hubbard & wf. Vickie (since 1982: deed 3208-80) same address ?, 27260

#### PREVIOUS OWNERS:

8/13/79 - 4/16/82: James T. Hubbard: deed 3005-169  
 11/15/71 - 8/13/79: James Hubbard & wf. deed 2565-170  
 3/15/68 - 11/15/71: Grady L. Mann: deed 2366-74  
 12/18/62-3/15/68: Blanche C. Mann: deed 2064-200  
 4/21/58 - 12/18/62: Grady L. Mann & wf. deed 1767-260  
 12/2/47 - 4/21/58: Maude Overaker:  
     foreclosure annulled: 1206-104  
 6/23/19 - 12/2/47: Maude Overaker: deed 327-137  
 12/15/16 - 6/23/19: P.L. Payne & wf. Etta: deed 291-236  
 1/1/12 - 12/15/16: C.C. Robbins: deed 236-151  
     - 1/1/12: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

#### TAX NUMBER:

222-8-12

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Sanborn maps: This side of this block not mapped 1917: house first appeared in 1924: street number was 404.
- McKelden Smith (1979), p. 61.
- McPherson (1976), pp. 33, 37. Robbins starts hosiery mills.
- Shipman (1983), pp. 186-87. Robbins manages hosiery mills.
- Young (1963), pp. 490-91. Robbins and hosiery industry.

#### NOTE:

- Maude Overaker lived at 1201 for over 50 years and owned several lots in this block. She married J. Edwin Jones, a photographer, in the 1910s.
- This house carried the number 402 until 1924, when it was renumbered as 404. Later it became 1204.

An early one-story frame garage stands behind the residence.

The W. T. Taylor House has been in the same family almost continuously from its construction in 1914, though the mid-1980s. Taylor daughter Dina Taylor Marple wrote in 1986 that her parents "thought they would later buy somewhere they would like better, but this did not develop ... we all loved 1205 Johnson Street."

"My parents, W.T. ("Jack") Taylor and Ava Hall Taylor were married July 28, 1910. They purchased a lot in the 'Johnson Place' development in 1911 and built a home there in 1914. Their first child, William Headley, was born in 1912 before they built their home. Their three other children, Thomas Hall, Ava Neil and Dina Joyce, were born after they moved to 1205 Johnson Street....

"W.T. Taylor was owner and manager of Piedmont Insurance and Realty Company. Ava Hall Taylor taught piano lessons at home during the early years of their marriage."

After Jack's death in 1964, widow Ava sold the house and moved elsewhere in town. But she "missed the Johnson Street neighborhood so much that she arranged to buy back the homeplace at 1205 Johnson Street in 1968." She lived there until 1979, when she moved to the Presbyterian Home. She died at age 91 in 1986, and the house passed to her heirs.

Today the Taylor's house is freshly painted, and looks exactly as it must have the day that Jack and Ava moved in. It is a Bungalow style example preserved in pristine original condition. The high gable roof, which hides a second story, still has its ornate stamped-metal shingles. The gabled front dormer and the main side gables sport "returns" in the eaves. Narrow weatherboards, cornerboards, and plain window surrounds make for a simple but crisply-detailed exterior. The inset front porch retains square tapered columns on brick piers, and balustrades with square balusters.

**1986 OWNER:**

Ava H. Taylor c/o Wachovia Bank&Trust  
(Trust Dept. Real Estate 3rd (since 1968: deed 2369-657)  
P.O. Box 3099, Winston Salem, N.C. 27102

**PREVIOUS OWNERS:**

9/30/66 - 10/4/68: Carrie Sheppard Real Est. deed 2301-292  
7/21/66 - 9/30/66: Stanford-Marley, Inc.: deed 2284-114  
12/24/27 - 7/21/66: W.T. Taylor & wt. Ava H.: deed 527-558  
3/29/23 - 12/24/27: Frances W. Montgomery, et al: deed 411-2  
- 3/29/23: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

**TAX NUMBER:**

222-7-12

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

•Sanborn maps: First shown in 1917: street number was 405.  
•McKelden Smith(1979), p. 61.  
•Dina Taylor Marple, letter to Charles Navrotil, August 10, 1986:  
W.T. (Jack) Taylor and Ava Hall Taylor raised four kids and lived there til his death in 1964. Ava sold house in 1966 but bought it back in 1968 and lived there til she entered a nursing home in 1979.

According to long-time Johnson Street resident Margaret Folger, this house was built in the mid-1910s

for Arthur and Ada Harrison. He was a railroad engineer on the "High Point to Asheboro" line. About 1920, after service in World War I, Dr. I. Thurman Mann, his wife Bessie Pitts Mann and their daughters acquired this home. Bessie died in this house after a long illness .... Dr. Mann married Wilma Welborn and they lived there until he died.

Since 1952 the house has been used as a rental property by a variety of owners, including R.B. and Ruth Surratt, Robert and Michele Paris, J. Douglas Wilson, and most recently Ronald and Sybil Cathey.

Dr. Mann's one-story dwelling is a well-preserved example of the Bungalow style. It has an unusual "U" shaped plan, which Margaret Folger recalls attracted sight seers. Two front gabled wings project from the gabled main block. There is an enclosed side porch, which appears to be original, and a rear addition. The upper three-fourths of the Bungalow's exterior walls are wood shingled, from the wide eaves to the bottoms of the window sills. Below the windows there is weatherboarding. The windows themselves are paired double-hung sash units, with sixteen tiny square panes of glass in each upper sash, and a large single pane in each lower sash. The main entrance is nestled back between the two front wings, and appears to have never been sheltered by a porch roof.

**1986 OWNER:**

Ronald C. Cathey & wf. Sybil S. (since 1984: deed 3409-1037)  
Rt. 7, Box 239, High Point, 27263  
(919) 434-2377

**PREVIOUS OWNERS:**

9/4/81-9/11/84: J. Douglas Wilson: deed 3181-384  
2/15/80-9/4/81: Ruth M. Surratt: deed 3046-577  
4/27/78-2/15/80: Robert J. Paris & wife: deed 2940-234  
9/15/52-4/27/78: R.B. Surratt & wf. Ruth M.: deed 1456-588  
7/30/52-9/15/52: R.L. Teague: deed 1456-590  
circa 1920? -7/30/52: Dr. Ira Thurman Mann  
5/12/11 - circa 1920?: Mrs. Ada Harrison: deed 230-82  
- 5/12/11: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

**TAX NUMBER:**

222-8-13

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

•Sanborn maps: This side of this block not mapped 1917; house first appeared in 1924:street number was 406.  
•McKelden Smith(1979), p. 61.  
•McPherson (1976), p. 31: Ruth Surratt was a long-time employee at City Hall.  
p. 66: In the early 20th century Dr. I.T. Mann was "new up-and-coming M.D. of the town."



The Dallas Zollicoffer House is a High Point architectural landmark. It is the city's best early example of the Prairie Style, an architectural style that is rare in the Carolinas.

If his house is any indication, Dallas Bancroft Zollicoffer must have been High Point's most flamboyant lawyer in the early years of the twentieth century. He was born the son of a prominent doctor in Northhampton County, east of High Point. Young Zollicoffer graduated from Wake Forest College in 1907 with a law degree. He courted and married Miss Robah Bencini of High Point, whose father E.A. Bencini owned a large house on South Main Street and was well known as the cashier and bookkeeper of prosperous Snow Lumber Company.

Zollicoffer was quick to attract attention in the small town. He built his unusual residence in 1911, conspicuous both for its Prairie Style architecture, and for the fact that it was one of the earliest houses in the city's first suburb.

In 1914 Zollicoffer entered the political arena, running not for local office, but for a post in Washington. Though he was unsuccessful, wrote newspaper editor J.J. Farris, "Mr. Zollicoffer received a large vote in the primaries for the House of Representatives."

In the early 1920s, Dallas Zollicoffer once again showed his impatience with convention when he and his wife were divorced. Such an action was almost unheard of at that time. The lawyer moved to Michigan, where he died in 1925.

From 1915 to 1918 the house on Johnson Street was owned by newlyweds J. G. and Hazel Briggs. The Briggs', who lived in several Johnson Street houses over the years, raised a son John G. Briggs, Jr., who went on to win acclaim as an author and New York Times music critic.

Garnett A. Pollock bought 1207 Johnson Street in 1918. He was a bank cashier with Wachovia and later with Atlantic

Bank & Trust. Pollock and his wife Ruth raised their two children there over some twenty years. The Great Depression proved to be a difficult time for Mr. Pollock. He went from a promising career in banking, to a job as a bookkeeper, to work as a drugstore clerk. In the late 1930s the Pollocks lost the house to a finance company, as did many mortgage holders during the Great Depression.

The residence was rented into the mid 1940s, until James S. Conrad purchased it in 1944. Conrad raised a family and built a successful High Point real estate business, as he lived in the house more than forty years.

( -- continued)



Dallas Zollicoffer

Prairie architecture was first developed in the 1890s and the 1900s by a group of Chicago-based architects who wanted a new, truly American style. Led by Frank Lloyd Wright, they proposed abandoning all ornament, and creating new forms inspired by the wide open spaces of the prairies.

Except for a minor alternation to the front porch, the Zollicoffer House is preserved in excellent original condition. It is a two-story cube, with two one-story side wings, and a one-story front porch. The hip roofs have extremely wide, plain eaves, a Prairie hallmark. Windows are paired, hinged units, rather than the double-hung sash seen elsewhere on Johnson Street. Walls are rough-textured stucco and simple square stuccoed columns support the front porch.

Originally, entrance was gained through the side wings, and the front porch was a self-contained space surrounded by a stuccoed balustrade wall and entered only from inside the house. Sometime around mid-century, a section was cut out of the balustrade wall and steps up to the porch were added, so that the front porch door could be used as the main entrance. The original doors in the side wings were not altered.

There is a recently-built detached two-car carport at the back of the property.

**1986 OWNER:**

James S. Conrad  
same address, 27262  
(919) 887-3535

(since 1944: deed 1042-383)

**PREVIOUS OWNERS:**

10/23/40 - 7/1/44: Homeowners Loan Corp.: deed 927-16  
9/6/34 - 10/23/40: C.S. Noble (trustee): deed 738-23  
1/24/18 - 9/6/34: Garnett A. Pollock: deed 307-4  
2/26/15-1/24/18: J. Gurney Briggs & wf. Hazel: deed 270-246  
12/8/11-2/26/15: Dallas Zollicoffer & wf. Rebah : deed 230-564  
- 12/8/11: Home Invest & Improv Co.

**TAX NUMBER:**

222-7-11

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

- Sanborn maps: House first shown in 1917: street # was 407.
- McKelden Smith(1979), p. 61.
- J.J. Farriss (1912): photo shows house.
- J.J. Farriss (1916): One-page Zollicoffer bio with photo.
- John G. Briggs, Jr., letter to Charles Navratil, July 23, 1986: His parents lived here when first married. Briggs grew up to be nationally noted music critic (see 1103 Johnson Street).
- Garnett A. Pollock, letter to Charles Navratil, July 13, 1986: He grew up in house.
- Ruth Pollock Rondeau (sister of Garnett Pollock), letter to Charles Navratil, July 21, 1986: She grew up in house?
- Mary Jane Zollicoffer, letter to Sarah Jones, July 29, 1986: Her uncle Dallas Bancroft Zollicoffer.
- Shipman (1983), pp. 168, 171: E.A. Bencini was original cashier and bookkeeper of Snow Lumber Co., and owned a large house on South Main.

Before this dwelling was erected, this lot passed through several hands, including those of High Point Enterprise owners J.P. and D.A. Rawley. In August of that 1947 C. D. Ellis and his wife Ruth bought the vacant parcel and had their house built. Mr. Ellis was manager of the Oak Hill Sandwich Shop on English Street in High Point.

The Ellis's lived here for only a couple of years, but kept their Johnson Street cottage as rental property until 1956. In that year they sold it to Evelyn K. Barwick, who held it just a few months before reselling to Robert and Ruth Surratt. During the next twenty-six years the house was one of several in the neighborhood that the couple rented to families.

Raymond Houston, Jr., bought the house in the spring of 1978, and made it his residence into the late 1980s.

The Ellis House is a compact one-and-a-half story design, more imaginatively executed than many structures dating from the building boom that followed the close of World War II. The exterior is of solid-looking dark red brick. The front facade is symmetrical. A projecting gabled front wing holds the front door, whose round-arched opening recalls the Tudor Revival architecture of the 1920s. The main gable roof has very narrow eaves, and it is pierced by two front dormers. Windows are six-over-six-pane double-hung sash units. There is no front porch, but the house does have a large one-story side porch, whose square columns and balustrade appear to have been recently rebuilt in the original style.

**1986 OWNER:**

Raymond Houston, Jr., & wf. Margie D.  
same address, 27262 (since 1978: deed 2913-617)

**PREVIOUS OWNERS:**

9/3/57-4/27/78: Robert G. Surratt & wf.: deed 1734-526  
12/8/56-9/13/57: Evelyn K. Barwick: deed 1695-453  
8/4/47-12/8/56: Charles D. Ellis & Ruth E.: deed 1187-250  
12/12/34-8/4/47: D.A. Rawley & wf. Sarah C.: deed 745-508  
3/24/27-12/12/34: Joseph P. Rawley & wf.: deed 565-87  
12/22/25-3/24/27: J.P. Rawley, C.D. Smith: deed 505-538  
4/15/14-12/22/25: Roberta T. Lyon: deed 254-578  
(part of lot bought from Home I. & I. Co.: deed 254-579)  
5/8/12 - 4/15/14: Lucie Mae Kinney: deed 245-159  
- 5/8/12: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

**TAX NUMBER:**

222-8-14

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

- Sanborn maps: This side of this block not mapped 1917: land was vacant in 1924.
- McKelden Smith(1979), p. 61.
- McPherson(1976), p. 31: Ruth Surratt worked in City Hall for many years.

**NOTE:**

- Owner Ruth Ellis is not the same person mentioned in McPherson (1976) as clothing maker.
- Rawley family owned High Point Enterprise and lived for many years at 1002 Johnson Street. Also owned land across street at 1209.
- Ellis family also owned adjacent lot at 1210, from 1947 to 1951.

At least three prominent High Point citizens have owned this dwelling: industrialist F.D. Blake, physician Guy F. Duncan, and newspaper owner Joseph P. Rawley.

Frank D. Blake bought the Johnson Street lot from R. Homer Wheeler's Home Investment and Improvement Company in June of 1914 and had this house erected soon thereafter. A native of Amesbury, Massachusetts, he had come to High Point to manage the North Carolina Wheel Company. The company had begun in 1902, one of the many timber-related industries started in High Point's early boom years. Wrote J.J. Farriss in the early 1910s:

The company manufactures all kinds of buggy wheels and has a splendid trade among all the largest manufacturers.... The stock of raw material carried is large, the company making their goods directly from the log. They give employment to forty skilled operators. The annual output of the plant is considerably over \$75,000.00, which finds a ready market throughout the country.

In early 1923 the Blake family sold the house to Dr. Guy F. Duncan and his wife Annie. Dr. Duncan was an important figure in High Point medical history, who founded one of the city's earliest health-care facilities -- Duncan Sanatorium -- in the 1910s and later helped start High Point's first hospital. The Duncans held the Johnson Street property for a bit more than a year, then sold the residence to Joseph P. Rawley.

J.P. Rawley's association with the High Point Enterprise, the city's main newspaper, began in 1915. Rawley and three partners bought the company from the family of its longtime editor J.J. Farriss. Rawley took charge as the periodical's publisher immediately, and in 1921 he and R.B. Terry became the sole owners. Joseph P. Rawley lived at 1209 Johnson Street through the height of his publishing career, from 1924 to his death in 1937. In addition to his

publishing activities during this period, Rawley was President of the Atlantic Building and Loan Association, and vice president of Premier Silk Mills.

In the late 1930s and early 1940s this house was home to Rawley's son D.A. "Bud" Rawley, who took over the newspaper upon his father's death. The family sold the residence in 1947 to W.F. Lawing, a salesman, and his wife Estelle, who lived here until 1966. Since that time the house has passed through a number of hands.

This large, handsome Rectilinear style house is the perfect foil for the Prairie style of the Zollicoffer House next door. The two-story Blake-Rawley House is similarly devoid of Victorian fussiness and historically-inspired ornament, but its forms stay close to the established norms of suburban house design beloved by High Pointers, rather than striking off in radical new directions. The dormered hip roof has eaves of moderate width. Walls are weatherboard and windows are double-hung sash. The wrap-around front porch is the main entrance to the dwelling, and it has paired square wooden columns and a wooden balustrade rail.

#### 1986 OWNER:

Jim Paschal Assoc., Inc. (since 1985: deed 3468-2198)

#### PREVIOUS OWNERS:

10/2/69-10/28/85: William K. Tise, Jr., & wf.: deed 2451-110  
 8/14/68-10/2/69: Conrad K. Aaron: deed 2392-425  
 10/5/66-8/14/68: Conrad K. Aaron & wife: deed 2301-719  
 8/1/47-10/5/66: W.F. Lawing & wf. Estelle C.: deed 1186-35  
 6/26/24-8/1/47: Joseph P. Rawley: deed 455-102  
 3/24/23-6/26/24: G.F. Duncan & wf. Annie M.: deed 412-104  
 6/31/14-3/24/23: F.D. Blake: deed 272-34

-6/31/14: Home Investment & Improvement Co.

#### TAX NUMBER:

222-7-10

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Sanborn maps: House first shown in 1917: street # was 409.
- McKelden Smith (1979), p. 61.
- J.J. Farriss (19 ): Blake is pictured: secretary-treasurer of Carolina Wheel Company.
- McPherson (1976), pp. 87-88: Dr. Guy F. Duncan.
- McPherson (1976), p. 44: D.A. Rawley was President of Chamber of Commerce 1957.
- Shipman (1983), pp. 202-203: info on Enterprise newspaper.

#### NOTE:

Rawley family lived for many years at 1002 Johnson Street. Also owned land across street at 1208.

High Point  
North Carolina

